Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 62 February 2016 Number 1

Blowing Rock to Host Spring Meeting

Mickey Shortt

Mark your calendar for the spring 2016 Carolina Bird Club meeting in Blowing Rock, NC on April 28-30! The High Country is one of the greatest places to witness the spring migration of Neotropical migrants; this meeting will offer exceptional trip leaders and interesting opportunities, including owl prowls, along the Blue Ridge escarpment. Scott Whittle and Tom Stephenson will be our featured speakers on Saturday evening. Scott and Tom authored *The Warbler Guide* book and app. Scott is a one-time New York Big Year record holder, and both are excellent photographers.

The last meeting in Blowing Rock was held in 2011, when participants tallied 130 species including Swainson's Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Ruffed Grouse and both cuckoo species!

Trips will explore the varied habitats of the High Country including Grandfather Mountain's sharp peaks, the Blue Ridge Parkway's productive forests and meadows, as well as the open country of Rich Mountain. Many parts of the High Country will be in that golden window when migrants are passing through and the trees haven't leafed out, offering incredible views of the birds in brilliant plumage.

We'll be headquartered at the historic Green Park Inn near downtown Blowing Rock. Given the hotel's physical location, straddling the Eastern Continental Divide (at the gateway to the Blue Ridge Parkway) and its rich history and significance to the North Carolina High Country, the Green Park Inn was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Rooms at the Green Park Inn may be booked by calling (828) 414-9230 and asking for a room in the Carolina Bird Club block. Room rates vary nightly from $78 on Thursday for a Standard Queen to $139 on Friday for a Superior King room with a balcony (prices do not include tax), and the inn offers a discount on your third night. Call the inn for more information. A select number of rooms are set aside for us at the Green Park; if you really want to stay at the host hotel, make sure you make your reservations early! Rates include an early breakfast and coffeemakers in each room.

A second option for lodging is one mile away from the meeting headquarters at the Holiday Inn Express. Rooms are $69 on Thursday and $89 nightly on Friday and Saturday (prices do not include tax). All rooms have two queen beds. The Holiday Inn Express offers complimentary hot breakfast each morning, which starts at 5:30 a.m. to accommodate our early starts. All the rooms feature a microwave and refrigerator, coffeemakers, and hairdryers. Please call (828) 295-4422 and mention the Carolina Bird Club to get our rates! A buffet dinner at the Green Park Inn will be offered on Saturday evening.

With beautiful scenery and birds, unique birding experiences, skilled leaders and a pleasant atmosphere, this will be a memorable CBC meeting! You'll find the registration information and trip descriptions in the next Newsletter.

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), February 2016, Volume 62, Number 1. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

The Carolina Bird Club is looking for a Newsletter Editor!

Steve Shultz

Ten years ago this spring I produced my first edition of the CBC Newsletter, beginning a journey that I anticipated would last a few years at most. But we are now ten years away from that freshman effort, and I'm looking fondly at the prospect of retirement. My reason for handing over the reins stems mostly from the belief that after a decade most of my creative ideas have been incorporated into the product, and the membership deserves an opportunity to enjoy new ideas, new directions, and a fresh outlook.

To this end, the club seeks an editor to take over production of the Newsletter beginning with the May-June 2016 edition, which has an April 15th deadline. Qualifications include the ability to commit to producing six editions per year meeting strict publication deadlines, the ability to run and use Microsoft Publisher software (or equivalent), and reasonable familiarity with currently-acceptable grammar, punctuation, and style.

The Newsletter Editor works with planners to organize, write, and format meeting announcements and trip descriptions, coordinates with the website editor on content delivery and timing, reviews and approves submitted content for publication, and serves as an *ex offico* member on the club's Executive Committee. The Editor receives no compensation and serves an unspecified term at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

If you are a member with capacity to assist the club through production of the Newsletter and excited about incorporating your creative ideas into a publication that reaches hundreds of individuals and institutions interested in the enjoyment and conservation of birds in the Carolinas, please contact me at newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org, or via telephone at 919-608-2069.

North Carolina Bird Records Committee Welcomes New Members

At the end of each calendar year the terms of three North Carolina Bird Records Committee (NC BRC) members expire, and the committee welcomes three new members. Members serve a three-year term with a mandatory one-year waiting period before they are eligible to serve again.

Effective January 1, 2016 the NC BRC is pleased to welcome **Sam Cooper**, **Josh Southern**, and **Jeff Lemons**. The trio replaces Mike Tove, Doug Pratt, and Jeff Pippen, whose terms expired.

The NC BRC consists of the following nine voting members and non-voting two member advisory panel. For voting members, the year in which their terms expire is noted by their "class".

Class of 2016
Nate Swick- ***Chair***
Taylor Piephoff
Steve Shultz

Class of 2017
Susan Campbell
Michael McCloy
Simon Thompson

Class of 2018
Sam Cooper
Josh Southern
Jeff Lemons

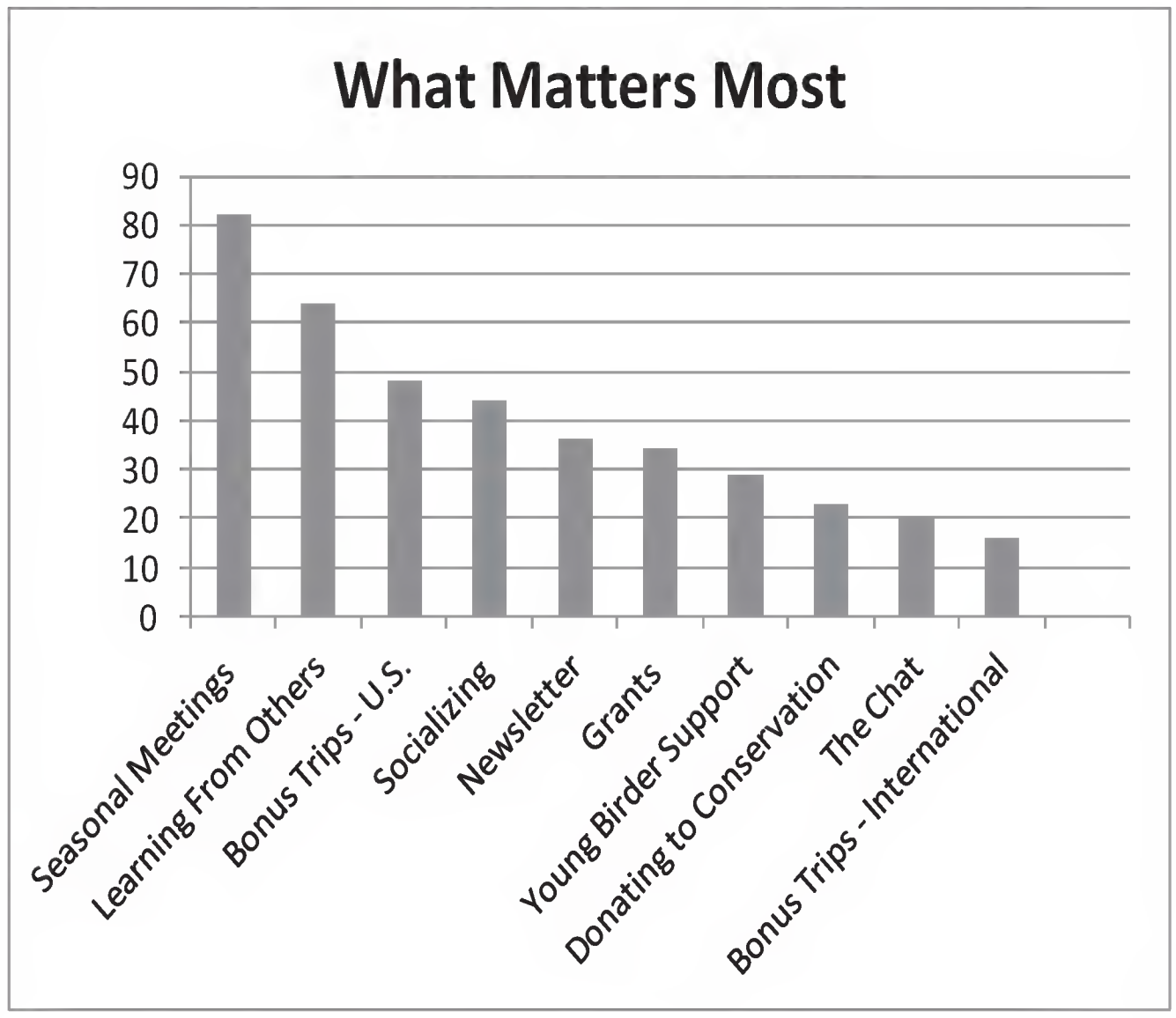
Advisory Panel
Harry LeGrand
Ricky Davis

What Aspect of the CBC Means the Most to You?

Members attending the fall meeting in Hickory, NC were invited to participate in an informal survey to identify what aspects of club membership are of the greatest importance.

Using a common technique from business, members placed tape flags on cards depicting various club offerings. Each tape flag represented a "vote" and participants could apply all of their votes to a single category, vote for different categories, or combine their "votes" in any way that they felt most best reflected the value proposition of each offering.

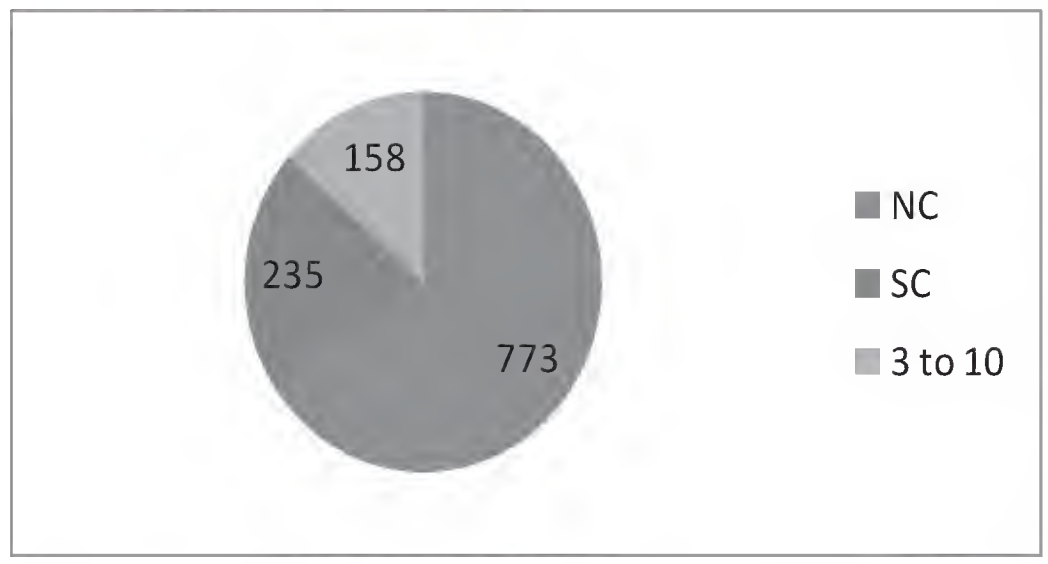
The results are show in the graph to the right. Do you have a different view? Make your voice heard by corresponding with any member of the Executive Committee (contact information can be found on the CBC website by navigating to "Member Services" and then "Executive Committee")



Carolinabirds Turns Nineteen

The Carolinabirds e-mail list turned nineteen years old on December 13th. The mailing list, independent of the CBC, connects birders via sightings, requests for information, trip reports, and more. 1,472 members subscribed to the group at the end of 2015.

The chart to the right shows where list members reside, with the majority being in NC, a sizable number in SC, and the rest of the top ten totaling 158.



While the vast majority of members, understandably, live in the United States, the list also serves members in Canada, Costa Rica, France, Scotland, and Belgium.

The largest concentration of users resides in the Triangle area of North Carolina (Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill), with 316 subscribers, or 25.5% of the total.

More than half of the members are male (as estimated by name) with 60.6% of the total, leaving an estimated 39.4% as female. Note that the estimate of gender is of lower confidence than the estimate of location.

To join the fun, simply send an e-mail with the line "subscribe carolinabirds" in the body to sympa@duke.edu. You will receive a reply with more information.

Thanks to Will Cook for continuing to manage this wonderful birding tool!

CBC Bonus Trip to Florida May 1-7, 2016

When you need it bad, we've got it good… come to Florida! Even if you don't remember the catchy jingle from 1979, you're sure to enjoy South Florida birding.

Join members of the CBC as we visit southeastern Florida and the Keys to search for ABA-area specialties difficult to find outside of SoFla! Early May is a great time, as the birds are in place but the weather hasn't hit that scorching level yet. Passerine migration will still be in progress, adding spice to our trip list. White-crowned Pigeon, Black-whiskered Vireo, Gray Kingbird, Snail Kite, Magnificent Frigatebird, Roseate Tern, Antillean Nighthawk, Gray-headed Swamphen, and Florida Scrub-Jay are just some of the species we expect to find. The elusive Mangrove Cuckoo might also be found. On the other end of the bird spectrum, we should see Egyptian Goose and Muscovy Duck, which are ABA-countable. Yes, the red-wart-faced feral Muscovy is now countable in Florida!

After flying into Fort Lauderdale on Sunday evening, our first stop on Monday will be Brian Piccolo Park for Burrowing Owls (99.9% guaranteed) and Monk Parakeets. Heading south, Florida City is good for Common Mynas, and Gray Kingbirds can be found in many places. Then we'll drive to Flamingo in Everglades National Park for Shiny and/or Bronzed Cowbird and walk the Anhinga and Pa-Hay-Okee Trails. We'll drive to Key West on Tuesday, stopping first at Card Sound Bridge to look for the "Cuban" Golden Warbler, a Yellow Warbler subspecies. Other stops along the way are good for Black-whiskered Vireo and White-crowned Pigeon. Roseate and Least Terns nest on a rooftop in Marathon and can be seen from the parking lot. In Key West, we'll visit the botanical gardens, Fort Zachary Taylor State Park, and look for Antillean Nighthawk at the airport.

On Wednesday, we'll take a boat (two-hour ride each way in the Gulf of Mexico) to Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas. Just before Garden Key we will stop near Hospital Key to look for Masked Boobies at the only breeding colony in the United States. Just next to Garden Key is Bush Key with a Sooty Tern population of over 80,000 birds and a Brown Noddy colony of 4,500 birds along with scores of Magnificent Frigatebirds. We'll hope for a Black Noddy, almost annual here, and watch for a Brown Booby flyover. Staying in Marathon Wednesday night, we'll visit the tiny airport for possible Antillean Nighthawk, just in case we missed it in Key West.

On Thursday morning, we'll start our drive to the Miami area, stopping at a Cave Swallow roost featuring birds from the West Indian subspecies, and trying for Mangrove Cuckoo. The area around Baptist Hospital is good for Red-Whiskered Bulbul (the only remaining location in the ABA area for this declining species), Spot-Breasted Oriole and White-winged Parakeet, all ABA countable. Then we'll visit Crandon Park and Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park on Key Biscayne and walk the trails.

Our first stop on Friday morning is Markham Park, near Fort Lauderdale, for Spot-breasted Oriole. Nesting waders and their young are a wonderful sight at Wakodahatchee Wetlands and Green Cay Nature Center, our next stops, where we should find Wood Stork, Limpkin, Least Bittern, Purple Gallinule, and Gray-headed Swamphen. Then we'll head north to Jonathan Dickinson State Park for Florida Scrub-Jay and Short-tailed Hawk. The trip ends on Saturday May 7th.

The leader for the trip is Ron Clark. If you have any questions, or want to reserve a slot, contact Ron at: waxwing@bellsouth.net. You can get a species list from the 2015 trip (146 species) and a link to photos.

The price for the trip is **$1260 for double occupancy and $1795 for single**. This includes six night's lodging with breakfast, ground transportation, entry fees, Dry Tortugas boat trip, and guided birding each day. You pay airfare, lunches, dinners, and any personal items. The trip is **limited to seven participants**. A deposit of $500, **due by February 1st**, will hold your spot, with the **balance due by March 1st**. If you must cancel, a full refund will be given until March 17th. Cancellations after the 17th allow for a refund only if someone is found to take your place.

Birder's Book Review

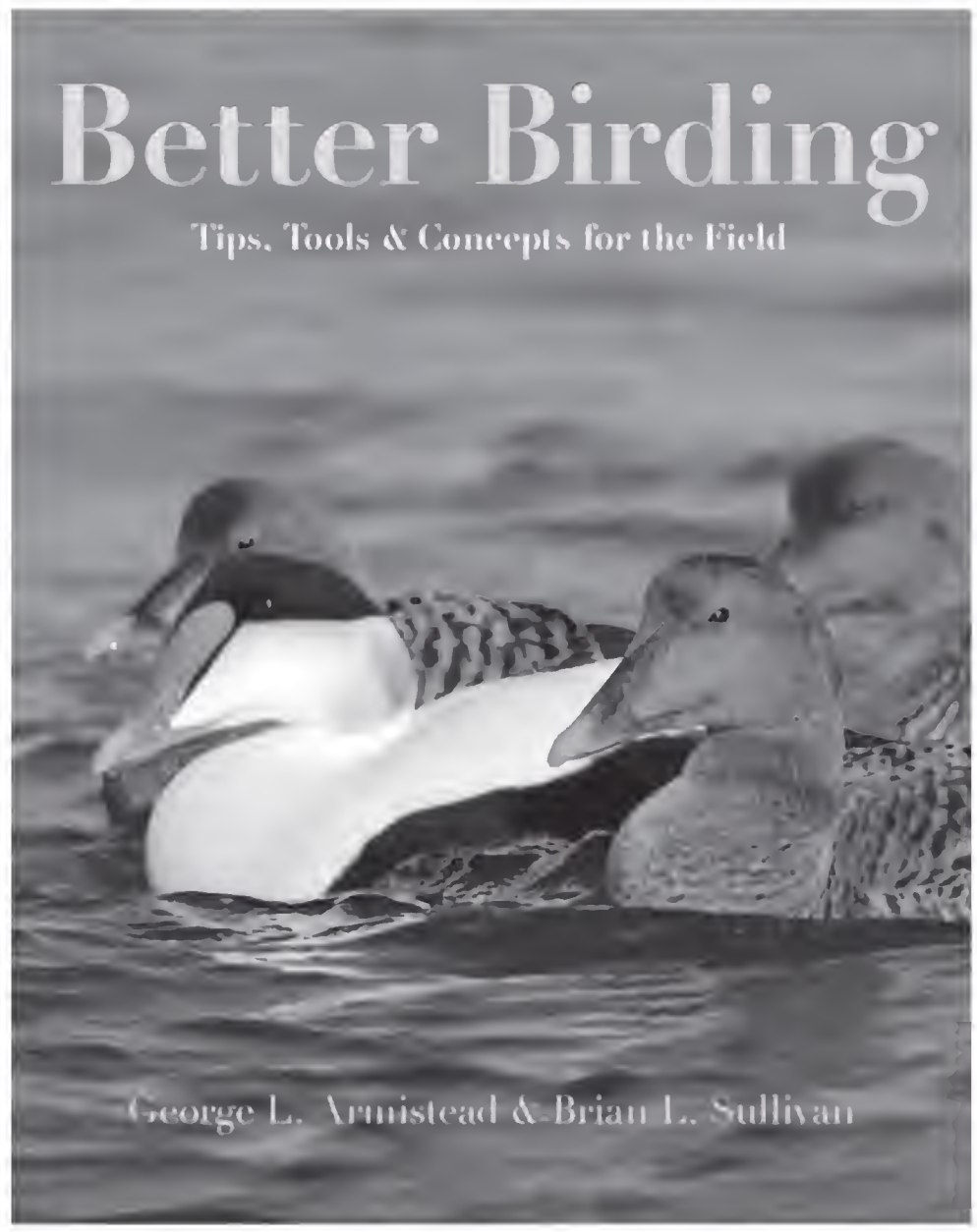
Steve Shultz

Better Birding: Tips, Tools & Concepts for the Field
George L. Armistead and Brian L. Sullivan
ISBN 978-0-691-12966-2, 318 pages, paper
2015, Princeton University Press, $29.95

When I first began birding, the Peterson field guides were widely considered to be the apex of avian identification books. Long noted as one of the most important advances ever in non-scientific bird identification, the Peterson stood alone atop a pile of guides with common names like "the Stokes guide", "the NatGeo guide" or "the Golden guide". In 2000 the now-considered-cutting-edge *Sibley Guide to Birds* rocketed onto the scene, and since that time, with a few exceptions, the "fight for field guide dominance" has remained unchallenged, with the Peterson/Sibley duo monopolizing the genre.

A decade prior to Sibley, a book from the broader Peterson series hit the market. The year was 1990 and the book was Kenn Kaufman's *Advanced Birding*. *Advanced Birding* dove much deeper into the identification of birds, especially notoriously tricky field challenges like loons, *empidonax* flycatchers, and jaegers, and allowed birders to explore what was then the cutting edge of bird identification. But more importantly, *Advanced Birding* set the stage for more books with similar aim. Many more. We now enjoy at least half a dozen excellent volumes on hawk identification, books delving into the tricky nature of pelagic bird identification, and more. Kauffman himself offers a second, updated volume, now in his own line of guides, 2011's *Kaufman Field Guide to Advanced Birding*. Birders now have, in addition to excellent "field guides" a number of compelling "identification guides" that dig deeply into the sometimes hair-pulling identification challenges provided by similar-looking species.

To this group we now add the fresh-off-the-presses *Better Birding: Tips, Tools, and Concepts for the Field* by George L. Armistead and Brian L. Sullivan. This 318 page book might be slightly misnamed, as I expected a "how to be a better birder" volume similar to recent efforts by Sibley, Derek Lovitch, and others. While those books might be considered foundational from the perspective of more experienced birders, Armistead and Sullivan's effort reminds me of the first *Advanced Birding*. The authors begin with a short (17-page) chapter on field identification techniques, but the bulk of the hefty book looks into identification challenges across species ranging from murrelets to Atlantic gadfly petrels, skulking *accipiters* to winter-plumaged longspurs, herons to pipits.



The authors admit that the inclusion or exclusion of certain known identification challenges was solely due to their interest and experience, so when one wonders why the relatively easy white herons are treated in detail while the tricky juvenile jaegers are excluded, the answer may simply be that the authors felt the herons needed coverage while the jaegers did not. Nonetheless, I would prefer to see the white-cheeked geese take the place of swans, which are not a significant identification challenge, but what is included impresses.

And while the decision to cover certain bird families might be seen to have a coastal bias (both authors live along the seaboard, one in the Mid-Atlantic and the other in California) even birders in the middle of the country can brush up on decidedly difficult challenges such as the aforementioned longspurs and the pipits.

I especially like the "natural history" and "taxonomy"

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Birder's Book Review

Steve Shultz

Offshore Sea Life ID Guide - East Coast
Steve N.G. Howell and Brian L. Sullivan
ISBN 978-0-691-16621-6, 64 pages, paper
2016, Princeton University Press, $14.95

This column recently reviewed *Offshore Sea Life ID Guide - **West** Coast* from Howell and Sullivan. Now, in time for that spring cruise or home study before the thrill of a Gulf Stream pelagic trip, is the anticipated *Offshore Sea Life ID Guide - **East** Coast.*

The East Coast already has a number of offshore wildlife guides including *A Field Guide to North Atlantic Wildlife* by Proctor and Lynch, and *Guide to the Offshore Wildlife of the Northern Atlantic* by North Carolina's own Michael H. Tove. So are there compelling reasons to buy Howell and Sullivan's effort? Overall, yes. The *Offshore Sea Life ID Guide: East Coast* scores points in four key areas of size, span, ease of use and price.

Whether on a dedicated pelagic birding excursion, whale watching trip, or taking a cruise from one of the East Coast home ports, having a pocket-sized (5x8", 64 page) reference often makes the difference between being able to use the tool on the spot versus keeping the book in the cabin or day bag for reference before or after sightings. Let's face it, most field guides are just too large to have in hand while observing, and toting individual volumes for mammals, birds, and fish limits space for other important items.

The very fact that a limited number of species inhabit offshore waters makes it possible to present the vast majority of likely sightings in a single, portable vessel. The book covers pelagic birds, marine mammals, sea turtles, flying fish, and more, showing each species in easy-to-read format and portrayed in composite form as they typically appear "on the water". And the price, with an MSRP of $14.95, ensures that you can still afford a decent dinner later on.

The authors depict species in "Crossley fashion" whereby multiple photos are combined onto a background to show different, and generally realistic, views of how the animals appear at sea. Plates and text are on the same or opposing pages, and due to the small format of the book, text is limited to abundance, range, and identification notes.

Not all species that may be encountered are covered, but the book's intent is to allow ready identification of more than 90% of the animals encountered while at sea. So no Red-footed Booby or European Storm-Petrel, but species such as Fea's and Trindade Petrel are shown.

One feature that I especially like is the inclusion of small (representing distant) photos. Let's face it, if the animal is close enough to see as well as depicted in a standard field guide, many of the identifications would not be as difficult, but views are often distant, and birds, especially, may appear very different when far away. Having a "mental picture" assists in making long distance identifications.

Overall this is a neat little book that fits handily in the pocket, and I can easily see myself using it while "on deck" . Surely most naturalists would want to follow up by consulting specialized (and often weighty) texts before or after the trip, but while at sea, it will be hard to beat Howell and Sullivan's offering.

Welcome New Members!

The Carolina Bird Club warmly welcomes the following new members:

Marcia Stager
Rock Hill, SC

Peter, Conor, Laura and Ann Marie Quadarella
Weddington, NC

Laurel Plesniarski
Raleigh, NC

Patricia Geiger
Boone, NC

Susan & Gary Behrend & Zack Medoff
Raleigh, NC

Sandra Fergus
Spartanburg, SC

Charles, Michelle & Jocelyn Donnelly
Johns Island, SC

Harold Donnelly
Elloree, SC

Colleen Bockhahn
Clayton, NC

Richard Porter
Fort Mill, SC

Kristen Spangler, Helen Pohl & Frederick Pohl
Columbia, SC

Martina Nordstrand
Indian Trail, NC

Joyce & Gene Hall
Greenville, SC

Ben Jones & Family
Columbia, SC

Bill Rowse
Huntersville, NC

Robert Trowell
Hartsville, SC

Debra Ballou & Peter Mohlin
Mt. Place, MA

Hunter Phillips
Holly Ridge, NC

Shortt Joins Executive Committee

Following the resignation of Jesse Pope as Western North Carolina Member-at-Large, President Irvin Pitts appointed Linville resident Mickey Shortt, Jr. to fill the unexpired term. The annual election for open Executive Committee positions is scheduled for the Blowing Rock spring meeting.

Better Birding

(Continued from page 5)

notes focusing on intriguing aspects of avian science.

Another feature that stands out is the "Crossley-treatment" showing similar birds together in the form they may be seen "in the wild". Viewing Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks side by side helps drive home those "general impression" comparisons so important to correct identification. Similarly, seeing Black-capped, Bermuda, Fea's, and Trindade Petrels all together greatly assists comparative evaluation.

While a few of the chapters seem unusual choices (the swifts, for example, since Chimney and Vaux's rarely provide close enough views for visual cues, identification is typically via sound) coverage of longspurs, pipits, yellow-bellied kingbirds, marsh sparrows, tropical terns, sulids, and murrelets hits the mark.

Crisp photography, with side-by-side composite comparisons of similar species accompany detailed, easy-to-read text. The hundreds of photos are nearly worth the price of the book on their own.

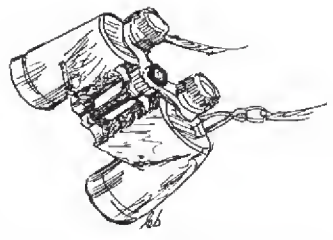
Above all, *Better Birding* was a fun read. Engaging, text hits the mark of being specific, but not overly technical. Photos bring birds to life, and show salient identification points described in the text.

Pros: Easy and fun to read. Great photography. Fresh looks at difficult identification challenges for groups of birds not covered extensively elsewhere.

Cons: Seems to have a slight coastal/California bias. Chapters do not cover some of the common identification challenges such as juvenile jaegers and white-cheeked geese.

The Newsletter and The Chat are online on the CBC website, and you can elect either electronic or paper delivery. The most recent electronic editions of each are only accessible to CBC members.

To access the "members only" content, you must first create a login and password.
This can be done at the Member Services page at:
http:// www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/



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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring 2016 - Blowing Rock, NC
Fall 2016 - Beaufort, SC

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pittsjam@windstream.net

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Editor of *CBC Newsletter*, Steven Shultz
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919-608-2069, newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org
Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, $25; Family, $30; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, $30; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues of $25 include $4 for a subscription to *CBC Newsletter* and $5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00. Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.
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CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 62 April 2016 Number 2

Registration Opens March 21st for Blowing Rock!

Mickey Shortt

As birds are poised to travel to the High Country's mountainous forests, waterways and scenic overlooks, we invite you to do the same for our spring meeting in Blowing Rock, NC! The dates for our spring meeting are Thursday April 28 through Saturday April 30. There will be something for everyone at this meeting including numerous field trips, evening owl prowls and our featured speakers, Scott Whittle and Tom Stephenson, authors of The Warbler Guide book and associated app. **Online registration opens Monday, March 21 at 8 a.m.**

Our last meeting in Blowing Rock was held in 2011 when participants tallied 130 species including Swainson's Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Ruffed Grouse and both cuckoo species! This year, we hope to focus on warblers, with several walks geared to get looks at specialty warblers and migrant flocks. One goal of the meeting is to have participants walk away with a better appreciation for, and understanding of, this special group of birds.

To search for these and other migrant species, we'll travel throughout the High Country to many iconic locales. The Linville Gorge, Grandfather Mountain, and Elk Knob will be the backdrop for us as we enjoy the annual passage of flycatchers, vireos, warblers and other migrants on their way to the High Country and points north. A few trips will visit Lewis Fork Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway - one known site for breeding Cerulean Warbler. Participants searching for the greatest variety should find it at Valle Crucis Community Park where just about anything in the High Country is a possibility.

A trip to engage newer birders and teach birding skills will be offered on Friday, and a trip led by and designed for young birders will be offered on Saturday. Birders who haven't birded at the Wagner Property will want to sign up early, as this opportunity has once again been provided exclusively for our meeting!

A new experience for Friday evening will be offered at this meeting: owl prowls. Three opportunities to bird in the evening will be offered following a social gathering on Friday evening. We'll target the Northern Saw-whet Owl on each of these trips!

New locations include the Wilson Creek Area - an opportunity to travel from the edge of the Blue Ridge down to the base of the mountains through varied habitats that bring varied bird species. Another new trip - Big Lost Cove Cliffs - provides an opportunity to spot a Peregrine Falcon on a hike out to remarkable cliffs that look toward Grandfather Mountain.

Our meeting will be headquartered at the historic Green Park Inn. The Green Park is located on US-321 in Blowing Rock (travel north on US-321 from I-40 in Hickory). At press time, the Green Park Inn is full. However it never hurts to check for cancellations. Check with the Green Park Inn by calling (828) 414-9230. Room rates vary nightly from $78 on Thursday for a Standard Queen to $139 on Friday and Saturday for a Superior King room with a balcony. The inn will answer any questions about the rooms. They are offering us a third-night stay discount too - ensure you mention the Carolina Bird Club to get these prices! Rates include an early breakfast and coffee-makers in each room.

A second option for lodging is one mile away from the Green Park at the Holiday Inn Express in Blowing Rock. Rooms are $69 on Thursday and $89 nightly on Friday and Saturday. All rooms have 2 queen beds. The hotel offers a

(Continued on page 3)

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Join the CBC in Alaska June 23rd – July 3rd!

Ron Clark

Escape the hot southern summer and come with us on an exciting 10-night trip to the cooler climes of Alaska for birds that can't be found anywhere else in the ABA Area. We'll cover the state from the Kenai Peninsula to Denali National Park and then spend three days in Nome. Flying to Anchorage on June 23rd, our first night's hotel sits on Lake Spenard where you can see Common Loon and Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage. Other locally found species include Common Goldeneye, Mew Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Black-billed Magpie and possibly Hudsonian Godwit.

Starting south for the Kenai Peninsula, we'll walk the boardwalks at Potter Marsh with nesting Arctic Terns and Violet-green Swallows. Western Wood-Pewee and Lincoln's Sparrow are possible. Then on to Anchor Point where Northwestern Crows are common, along with 20-40 Bald Eagles and "Sooty" Fox Sparrow. Our next stop is Homer. While birding the spit, we'll see hundreds of Black-legged Kittiwakes and likely Pigeon Guillemot, Brant and Common Murre.

Saturday morning we'll take a three-hour boat ride in the Kachemak Bay. As we watch dozens of Sea Otters around us, we should easily add Aleutian Tern, Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelets and Tufted Puffin. Horned Puffin is also possible. Thousands of Black-legged Kittiwakes and Common Murres nest on the rocks. We should have very close views of Pigeon Guillemot and Pelagic Cormorant. Surfbird and Black Turnstone are usually seen. The last two trips produced Sabine's Gull and Yellow-billed Loon.

After leaving Homer, we'll bird our way halfway back to Anchorage, looking for Pine Grosbeak, Gray Jay, Townsend's Warbler and Varied Thrush. The night will be spent in cabins on Summit Lake. On Sunday, we'll work our way north of Anchorage, stopping at Eagle River and Arctic Valley, among other sites. On most trips we see Moose, sometimes with calves, Grizzly and Black Bear, and Dall Sheep.

We'll work our way north to Denali National Park on Monday and Tuesday, looking for American Golden-Plover, Wilson's Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Spruce Grouse, Rough-legged Hawk, Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes, and American Dipper. At 20,322 feet, Denali is the tallest peak in North America. Visible only 15% of the time, hopefully the mountain will grace us with a view. We'll drive into the park to the 16-mile turnaround point and seek out Willow Ptarmigan.

Nome is our destination for Wednesday morning. With a population of around 4,000, it has no traffic lights and, in summer, no night. We'll bird the harbor, picking up Glaucous Gull, and then drive out Council Road to Safety Sound, following the Bering Sea. At the mouth of the Nome River, we'll look for Sabine's and Slaty-backed Gulls and Bar-tailed Godwit. Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers nest on the tundra and Common Eider, Lapland Longspur, Pacific Loon, Pacific Golden-Plover, Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks and Common Redpoll are easily found. We'll scan the sea for Arctic Loon and the roadside and mudflats for Red-necked Stint. Eastern Yellow Wagtail is expected, and Sandhill Crane, "Taverner's" Cackling Goose, Red-necked Phalarope and eiders are possible.

On Thursday and Friday we'll search for Short-eared Owl, Bristle-thighed Curlew, Gyrfalcon, Bluethroat, Arctic Warbler, Hoary Redpoll, Willow and Rock Ptarmigan, Wandering Tattler, and Northern Wheatear. Last year we found a male Spectacled Eider! Mammals including Musk Oxen and Caribou are expected.

Our half-day on Saturday will be spent on Council Road. It changes from day-to-day, so we'll check it one more time before flying back to Anchorage in late afternoon. On Sunday, July 3rd, we'll return home, with many lifers and memories of this beautiful state.

The leader is **Ron Clark** and this is his eighth trip to Alaska, taking groups there five times.

The price for double occupancy is $2,610. Single supplement is $1,130. This covers ten nights' lodging, ground transportation, Homer boat trip, entry fees, and guide services. Breakfast is included with most lodging. You pay roundtrip airfare to Anchorage, roundtrip airfare between Anchorage and Nome (estimated to be $350-$400), lunches, dinners and any personal spending.

The trip is limited to 7 participants. Because the single supplement is high, we may take eight if the lodging works better. Then, the price for double occupancy would be reduced to $2,440. Keep in mind that Alaska has only four months for tourism, so prices are higher than many other birding destinations.

A deposit of $1,000, due by April 1st, will hold your spot. The balance is due by May 10th. If you must cancel, a full refund will be given until May 10th. Cancellation after the 10th allows for a refund only if someone is found to take your place.

For more information, or to reserve your spot, contact Ron Clark at waxwing@bellsouth.net. You can also get a species list from last year and a link to photos.

CBC Spring Meeting Schedule

Friday, April 29

Morning - Half-Day Trips (all times a.m.)
Trip 1: Wagner Property 7:00
Trip 2: Valle Crucis Park 7:10
Trip 3: Birding for Beginners 7:30
Trip 4: BRP North: Lewis Fork 7:00
Trip 5: Rich Mt./Elk Knob 7:20

Afternoon - Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)
Trip 6: Valle Crucis Park 12:50
Trip 7: Meat Camp ESA 1:00
Trip 8: Linville Falls/BRP 1:00
Trip 9: Boone Greenway 1:15
Trip 10: Blue Ridge Parkway South 1:15

All Day Trips (all times a.m.)
Trip 11: Blue Ridge Parkway 7:15
Trip 12: Wilson Creek Area 7:30
Trip 13: Table Rock/Linville Gorge 7:00
Trip 14: Grandfather Mountain 7:20

Evening Trips (all time p.m.)
Trip 30: BRP Owl Prowl 8:15
Trip 31: Elk Knob Owl Prowl 8:30
Trip 32: Grandfather Mt. Owl Prowl 8:30

Saturday, April 30

Morning - Half-Day Trips (all times a.m.)
Trip 15: Young Birder Trip/Valle Crucis 7:15
Trip 16: Bass and Trout Lakes 7:15
Trip 17: Wagner Property 7:00
Trip 18: Valle Crucis Park 7:00
Trip 19: Warbler Search 6:45
Trip 20: Linville Falls/BRP 7:20

Afternoon - Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)
Trip 21: Meat Camp ESA 1:00
Trip 22: Grandfather Mt. Stewardship Land 1:00
Trip 23: Warbler Workshop and Search 1:30
Trip 24: Price Lake Hike 1:15
Trip 25: Valle Crucis Park 12:50

All Day Trips (all times a.m.)
Trip 26: Elk Knob/Rich Mountain 7:20
Trip 27: Big Lost Cove Cliffs 7:30
Trip 28: Warbler Big Day 6:50
Trip 29: Grandfather Mt. East & West 7:10

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Registration

complimentary hot breakfast each morning, which starts at 5:30 a.m. to accommodate our early starts.
Please call (828) 295-4422 and mention the Carolina Bird Club to get our rates! All rooms rates are before tax.

A buffet dinner will be prepared by the Green Park Inn's chef on Saturday evening. This delicious meal will be provided for $30 per person (which includes taxes and gratuity) and includes a salad, bread, entrée options, several sides, and dessert. An equally delicious vegetarian option is available!

Following our meal on Saturday, our featured speakers Scott Whittle and Tom Stephenson will describe the beauty, field marks, and their passion for the nearly 40 species of warblers found in the eastern US. Their book will be available for sale and signing at a reduced rate!

Whatever trips you choose, you will find friendly trip leaders, beautiful birds, and gorgeous vistas. We hope you enjoy looking forward to this special meeting in a special location!

Essential Planning Notes

The times listed above are when the cars are lined up in the parking lot and leaving. Please be there at least 10 minutes early and identify yourself to the leader. If you decide not to go on a trip, either scratch through your name beforehand on the supplied lists at the registration table, or show up at the meeting place and tell the leader. Please consider doing this in advance so others may use the open spot if desired.

All trips meet and depart from the Green Park Inn in Blowing Rock. Look for the placard with your trip number. You will receive a sheet with directions for all your trips in your registration packet. Please bring it on each trip as caravans sometimes break down. Food for purchase during field trips may be somewhat limited. Accordingly, plan to take snacks and beverages with you, and be sure to pack a lunch for the all day trips.

We try to take as few vehicles as possible on field trips in order to save fuel, make caravanning easier, and to make better use of the limited parking that exists at some stops. Please plan on carpooling. Enjoy the trips and the meeting!

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1 and 17: Wagner Property
Probably the only way you can visit this property is through the CBC meeting; don't miss this chance! The owners have given us permission to bird it during our meeting weekend. This area has been a favorite of anyone who has visited. Several Green Herons nest in the marsh, and an American Bittern has been spotted several times. Passerines are always plentiful in migration, with a variety of warblers, vireos, tanagers and orioles.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 35 minutes. Facilities: limited. Activity level: walking on uneven surfaces and driving.

Trips 2, 6, 18 and 25: Valle Crucis Community Park
This park is one of the gems of the area and holds the only county record for King Rail and Chuck-will's-widow. It is bounded by the Watauga River, agricultural land and forests. Nesting birds include seven species of flycatcher: Least, Willow, Acadian, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested and Eastern Phoebe. Also look for four species of vireos, both orioles and three swallows. As far as warblers, over 25 species have been seen here in migration. Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler and Northern Parula are local breeders. With easy walking on paved trails and open viewing areas, this is a High Country favorite.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 30 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on paved surfaces.

Trip 3: Birding Techniques for Beginners at Bass and Trout Lakes
This trip will dedicate a large amount of time to teaching various birding techniques including: locating birds, basic vocal and visual identification tips, group birder etiquette, and other useful birding tips. This trip is designed for any beginning to intermediate birder looking to enhance their birding skills in the setting of Bass and Trout Lakes. This trip will take a slower approach, with time spent focusing on techniques and field marks rather than a complete species inventory of everything at the park.
Limit: 12. Travel time: 10 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on unpaved surfaces (uneven at Trout Lake).

Trip 4: Blue Ridge Parkway North: Lewis Fork Overlook
If you want to see a Cerulean Warbler, Lewis Fork is a very good spot. Breeding warblers include Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, and American Redstart. This site along the Parkway will no doubt have many migrating birds as well. At Jeffress Park we'll walk the one-mile Cascade Trail that goes through hardwoods and then along a creek. Some of the breeders are Hooded and Canada Warblers, Wood Thrush, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Scarlet Tanager.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 35 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: hiking on uneven surfaces.

Trip 5: Rich Mountain and Elk Knob State Park
We will visit these two sites and others within the Amphibolite peaks. This is a great location for open-country birds and early succession habitat species. The trip involves some hiking on steep, uneven terrain. Bring your lunch. Species of the area include Vesper Sparrow, Least Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and many northern hardwood and high elevation birds.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 40 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on unpaved surfaces.

Trips 7 and 21: Meat Camp Environmental Study Area
Over 170 species have been recorded on this private 10-acre site since 1999. Some of the nesting birds are Common Yellowthroat, Green Heron, Yellow Warbler, and Least and Willow Flycatchers. Black-billed Cuckoo have also nested here on occasion. Lingering Sora, Virginia Rail and American Bittern are possible. Many migrants should be seen in this wetland site. This is an easy ¾ mile walk. If we have time, we'll go to nearby Green Valley Park, another excellent migration spot.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 35 minutes. Facilities: no. Activity level: walking on uneven surfaces.

Trips 8 and 20: Linville Falls via the Blue Ridge Parkway
This trip will cover the campground and some of the less strenuous trails along the gorge and falls. Much of this area was never logged due to the steep terrain, so the trees are mostly old-growth. Red Crossbill and Swainson's Warbler are possible here. Peregrine Falcons also nest nearby. We'll look for Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Ovenbird and Rose-breasted Grosbeak among others.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 40 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on unpaved surfaces.

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trip 9: Boone Greenway
Following the New River, this greenway passes through a variety of habitats, from fields and stream borders to woodlands. It is flat, easy walking and should provide a wide assortment of migrants in the riparian habitat. Willow Flycatcher, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler and Eastern Kingbird are some of the breeders. Four, or possibly five, vireos can be found, along with many other passerines. Shorebird potential is good along the river, or in the newly constructed wetland area. If nearby fields have standing water, we could find some more there. Possibilities include Least and Pectoral Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plover and Wilson's Snipe.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 15 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on paved surfaces.

Trip 10: Blue Ridge Parkway South
This trip will visit Bass Lake, Price Lake, and the eastern slopes of Grandfather Mountain. Bass Lake, located in Moses H. Cone Park, offers some of the best birding along the Parkway. We'll find birds usually associated with higher elevation forests. These include Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Warblers could include Blackburnian, Ovenbird, Hooded, Canada, and Chestnut-sided.
Limit: 16. Travel time: multiple destinations within 35 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on unpaved surfaces (uneven at Trout Lake).

Trip 11: Blue Ridge Parkway
This trip will combine several spots covered in half-day trips for those folks who want to take a short lunch and keep birding. These spots include Bass and Trout Lakes, Price Lake, Lewis Fork Overlook, E.B. Jeffress Park, and other overlooks and short trails along the way. Most of these sites are described in other trips. You will need to pack a lunch, since it's a full day trip. Expect a wide variety of birds as we will cover many different habitats.
Limit: 16. Travel time: multiple destinations. Facilities: yes. Activity level: hiking on uneven surfaces and some car birding.

Trip 12: Wilson Creek Area
This trip will spend the day in the Pisgah National Forest searching for spring migrants down the Blue Ridge escarpment. We should see many stages of spring as it travels steeply down in elevation through the Wilson Creek drainage. The route passes into the breeding range of Yellow-throated Warbler and Northern Parula. We'll also look for migratory Blackburnian Warbler, Swainson's Warbler and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Pack a lunch for this trip.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 90 minutes. Facilities: limited. Activity level: hiking on uneven surfaces and some car birding.

Trip 13: Table Rock and The Linville Gorge
Comprised of nearly 12,000 acres of congressionally designated wilderness, The Linville Gorge is often referred to as the Grand Canyon of the East. This elevation range should be excellent for such species as Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Black-throated Green Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler. The gorge is also host to Peregrine Falcon. This should be a great trip that includes a hike along the rim of the gorge. Pack a lunch and be prepared with sunscreen!
Limit: 16. Travel time: 90 minutes. Facilities: limited. Activity level: moderate hiking on uneven surfaces and some car birding.

Trip 14: Grandfather Mountain Full Day
Spend the day on the eastern, western and southern faces of Grandfather Mountain. This trip will involve hiking on the Profile Trail in the state park, exploring the high elevation spruce-fir forest on Stewardship Foundation land and strolling beside streams along the Nuwati trail. Expect numerous migrants in varied habitats with quite a bit of walking! Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler, Veery, and several other songsters will be sought out on a day on this iconic mountain. Pack a lunch or plan to eat at the park's restaurant.
Limit: 16. Travel time: multiple destinations within an hour. Facilities: limited. Activity level: walking on uneven surfaces. Fee: $6/person.

Trip 15: Young Birder Trip to Valle Crucis Park
This trip is especially designed for the up-and-coming group of birders. It will center around Valle Crucis park with the possibilities to see Yellow Warbler, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat as well as orioles and a few flycatchers. The park is one of those spots that could turn up just about anything!
Limit: 12. Travel time: 30 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on paved surfaces.

Trip 16: Bass and Trout Lakes
This trip will visit Bass Lake and Trout Lake along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Bass Lake, located in Moses H. Cone Park, offers some of the best birding along the

(Continued on page 6)

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Parkway. The trail around 22-acre Bass Lake goes through a mix of conifers. Expect a good variety of migrants along with breeders such as House Wren, White-breasted Nuthatch and Barn Swallow. The one-mile loop trail around the 16-acre Trout Lake goes through a hemlock canopy with a rhododendron understory. We should find birds usually associated with higher elevation forests. These include Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Warblers could include Blackburnian, Ovenbird, Hooded, Canada, and Chestnut-sided.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 10 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on unpaved surfaces (uneven at Trout Lake).

Trip 19: Warbler Search
The High Country is renowned for the variety of warblers that breed and pass through the region. This trip will move through multiple habitats with a focus on this special suite of birds. This will mean looking high and low, experiencing "warbler neck" and dipping in multiple areas searching for as many warblers as possible in one morning!
Limit: 16. Travel time: multiple destinations. Facilities: limited. Activity level: walking on uneven surfaces.

Trip 22: Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation Land
Visit the Stewardship Foundation park in search of northern species such as Common Raven, Canada Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler and Red Crossbill. We'll take a couple of short walks on this trip and enjoy the views and the birds on this mountain of abundant life and diversity.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 35 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on uneven surfaces. Fee: $6/person.

Trip 23: Warbler Workshop and Search
The High Country is renowned for the variety of warblers that breed and pass through the region. This trip will first examine the field marks, habitat and other distinguishing characteristics of our warblers, and then move into a couple of habitats to search for migrant and breeding warblers.
Limit: 16. Travel time: multiple destinations. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on uneven surfaces.

Trip 24: Price Lake Hike
This trip will follow the flat 2-½-mile loop trail around the lake in Julian Price Park. We can expect a good variety of birds including Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Warbler species include Canada, Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Black-and-white, and Northern Parula. If the water is low, a variety of shorebirds could be present. Sandpipers may include Least, White-rumped, Solitary, Spotted and Semipalmated. Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and Short-billed Dowitcher have also shown up.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 20 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking on uneven surfaces.

Trip 26: Elk Knob and Elk Knob Game Lands (Rich Mountain)
Explore the forests of Elk Knob State Park and the open areas between Rich Mountain and Snake Mountain. Rising more than 5,500 feet above sea level in northwestern North Carolina, Elk Knob is one of the peaks in the Amphibolite Range. The mountain is characterized by northern hardwood forest and supports birds such as Ruffed Grouse, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Broad-winged Hawk, Veery and Canada Warbler. The open areas between Rich Mountain and Snake Mountain will be explored for raptors, sparrows and freshly arrived warbler species. Pack a lunch for this trip!
Limit: 16. Travel time: 30 minutes. Facilities: yes. Activity level: walking/hiking on uneven surfaces.

Trip 27: Big Lost Cove Cliffs
Explore a unique rocky outcropping within the Wilson Creek Area of the Pisgah National Forest. This trip is a hike down to spectacular overlooks of the Blue Ridge. Expect migrant songsters along the way; Peregrine Falcons have nested on the cliffs and have been seen in recent years. Pack a lunch and plan on a 3-mile round trip hike out to the overlook.
Limit: 12. Travel time: 60 minutes. Facilities: in travel only. Activity level: challenging hiking on uneven surfaces.

Trip 28: Warbler Big Day
The High Country is renowned for the variety of warblers that breed and pass through the region. This trip will move through multiple habitats with a focus on this special suite of birds. This will mean looking high and low, experiencing "warbler neck" and dipping in multiple areas searching for as many warblers as possible in one full day! Pack a lunch for this trip!
Limit: 12. Travel time: N/A. Facilities: limited. Activity level: walking/hiking on uneven surfaces.

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trip 29: Grandfather Mountain: Eastern and Western slopes
The Profile Trail is part of Grandfather Mountain State Park and follows a creek before a moderate climb up toward the crest. The trip will stop about 1.5 miles up the Profile Trail. This is a good area for Ruffed Grouse, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Winter Wren, Wood Thrush, Veery and Brown Creeper. Warblers could include Canada, Ovenbird, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, and Black-and-white. The Tanawha Trail runs along the Blue Ridge Parkway near the Linn Cove Viaduct. It is less hilly and meanders through a deciduous canopy with laurel and rhododendron understory. Expect a variety of warblers, vireos and other passerines. Pack a lunch for this trip.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 45 minutes. Facilities: limited. Activity level: moderate hiking on uneven surfaces.

Evening Trips: *You asked for them! These experiences seek out the nocturnal bird species of our spring meeting.*

Trip 30: Blue Ridge Parkway Owl Prowl
This experience will comb the Blue Ridge Parkway south of Blowing Rock in search of Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl and the local specialty Northern Saw-Whet Owl. In addition, we'll look for American Woodcock. Bring a headlamp or small flashlight and dress warmly.
Limit: 16. Travel time: multiple destinations. Facilities: limited. Activity level: walking on uneven surfaces at night.

Trip 31: Elk Knob Owl Prowl
Travel to the high forest in the Amphibolites in search of a suite of night-time birds and insects. This trip will search for Northern Saw-whet Owl, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl and Eastern Screech Owl in addition to moths of the High Country. Bring a headlamp or small flashlight and dress warmly.
Limit: 16. Travel time: multiple destinations. Facilities: limited. Activity level: walking on uneven surfaces at night.

Trip 32: Grandfather Mountain Owl Prowl
After traveling to the top of Grandfather Mountain's Linville Peak, we'll work our way down in elevation while making stops listening for the owls that breed on the slopes of Grandfather Mountain. Bring a headlamp or small flashlight and dress warmly.
Limit: 16. Travel time: 35 minutes. Facilities: limited. Activity level: walking on uneven surfaces at night.

The Carolina Bird Club is looking for a Newsletter Editor!

Steve Shultz

As noted in the prior Newsletter, the club seeks an editor to take over production of the Newsletter beginning with the May-June 2016 edition, which has an April 15th deadline. Qualifications include the ability to commit to producing six editions per year meeting strict publication deadlines, the ability to run and use Microsoft Publisher software (or equivalent), and reasonable familiarity with currently-acceptable grammar, punctuation, and style.

The Newsletter Editor works with planners to organize, write, and format meeting announcements and trip descriptions, coordinates with the website editor on content delivery and timing, reviews and approves submitted content for publication, and serves as an *ex offico* member on the club's Executive Committee. The Editor receives no compensation and serves an unspecified term at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

If you are a member with capacity to assist the club through production of the Newsletter and excited about incorporating your creative ideas into a publication that reaches hundreds of individuals and institutions interested in the enjoyment and conservation of birds in the Carolinas, please contact me at newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org, or via telephone at 919-608-2069.

Hawk-watching in South Dakota (The "Other" Pelagic Birding)

Michael Tove

Winter in central South Dakota is famous for two things: insanely frigid weather and an abundance of raptors. This past January 14-18, Mike Riley and I ventured there to search for one and brave the other. Following an evening flight to Sioux Falls on the 14th, we struck out before dawn in our rented SUV for the 200+ mile drive west on I-90. This highway soon came to signify an important birding landmark.

As a gray dawn broke over an utterly barren landscape of treeless snow that stretched from horizon to horizon, the complete absence of anything living was noteworthy. For nearly an hour we saw nothing save a pair of crows and a few starlings. Suddenly, it all changed when we spotted a Snowy Owl perched on a power pole. I pulled over and even backed up a quarter-mile (fortunately, there were no other cars in sight). We drank in views as the owl gazed over its back at us before flying to the next pole. Minutes after returning to the highway, we saw a Rough-legged Hawk and just like that, the drought was over.

Pelagic birding involves trolling over miles of ocean until crossing paths with free-flying seabirds. "Trolling" for hawks by car is similar, except where a boat can travel in any desired direction, a car is restricted to drivable roads. But, there's a catch. Ideally, roads must be passable enough to not get stuck, yet primitive enough to only be used by farmers, birders and the insane. Fortunately, central South Dakota is crisscrossed with a network of such roads that continues for miles.

Pre-trip research revealed a hotspot located south of I-90 between the towns of Vivian and Draper that one veteran hawk-watcher termed "The Promised Land." Perhaps most remarkable about the trip was the stark difference north vs. south of the interstate. Anywhere north of the highway, birdlife was nil, but immediately south, hawks were plentiful. A relatively recent anomaly, this phenomenon has been noted by multiple hawk-watchers over the past few years.

We planned to start on the western edge of the "Promised Land" immediately south of Draper, but driving a gas-guzzling SUV, we wanted to start on a full tank. However, Draper's nearest gas station is eleven miles west in the town of Murdo (population 692). After fueling up and getting a quick bit of lunch, we began in earnest. The dirt roads were actually plowed, mostly snow-free, and frozen solid, which made driving easy except that our tires sprayed an ever-thickening coat of iced dirt over the car.

Within minutes of starting we saw Golden Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks. About a mile south, we turned left on an east-west road that would become familiar ground. At the corner, a great number of hay bales strewn across the field were covered with scores of Ring-necked Pheasants. Here we also found a Merlin perched atop a wisp of juniper. Two forms of Merlin occur in the Dakotas. The nominate one familiar to us, and a pale prairie form known as Richardson's Merlin. This was a "regular" one, but still a nice find.

We continued east, searching and scanning. Although the road was lined with telephone poles, virtually none of the birds we saw used them. Rather, they perched on hay bales, isolated posts in the middle of the fields, or on the ground. Were if not for the continuous blanket of white, picking them out would have been next to impossible.

As with marine pelagic trips, hawk "pelagics" combine long periods of few or no birds with the sudden discovery of something really good. We cruised along until a white shape in the field stopped us. It was an immature Ferruginous Hawk, one of our target species. Although at a distance, we drank it in before moving on. Soon after, we spotted a second one flying and then landing beside the road. Holding our breaths, we crept up and stopped directly beside a fully adult bird that seemed to ignore our presence. Finally it flew and came right past the car, my camera burning images the whole time. Continuing on, we found many more raptors, including two more Ferruginous Hawks.

About 3 p.m., we left the "Promised Land" for a drive north into the Fort Pierre National Grasslands, the traditional area for winter raptor concentrations in South Dakota. But apart from some huge flocks of Greater Prairie Chickens, plus a thin smattering of rough-legs and eagles, it was surprisingly empty. That Bald Eagles thrive in the middle of snow-crusted grassland prairies with no water in sight was somewhat surprising, until we saw how adept they are at taking the local abundance of pheasants, prairie chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse. We ended up in Pierre for the night.

Hawk-watching in South Dakota (The "Other" Pelagic Birding)

Micheal Tove

The next day began at dawn at the Oahe Dam. Apart from a small flock of Cackling Geese and a cadre of Bald Eagles, there was not much, so we headed south to the Promised Land, this time starting south of Vivian. Except for an abundance of Horned Larks, with a dusting of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings, there was nothing until we crossed I-90. Immediately south, we found two adult Bald Eagles and an immature Golden Eagle. It was odd that while 90% of the goldens were young, 90% of balds were adult. The eagles were soon joined by a rough-leg, a Northern Harrier and a Ferruginous Hawk.

We continued south, turning west on several crossroads that dead-ended, but the birding was so good, it hardly mattered. It was a gray day, with temperatures hovering around zero and enough wind out of the west to make staying outside without a LOT of layers unpleasant. Finally, we found a west-bound road that didn't end. For a while, the birds seemed to taper off, but then we rounded a bend and saw a bird perched on a stack of large hay bales. It deliberately perched low enough to be sheltered but high enough to see over the top. If a fresh pheasant was to be on the menu, this ambush strategy couldn't have been better.

As we neared, it became evident this was not a "roughie" but rather a big falcon. Question was, could it be "big enough?" The ultimate South Dakota prize is Gyrfalcon, but Prairie Falcons are common and this bird didn't look THAT large. Still it seemed too dark for a Prairie Falcon, so we bundled up and trekked across the frozen wastelands to get closer. I popped off a few shots when the bird launched: heavily streaked below and NO black axillars – immature Gyrfalcon!!! It flew a wide circle around the field and landed on a distant hay bale. We pressed onward, getting more looks until it took off and departed. When I say "departed" I mean the way a bolt of lightning "departs" a cloud. This bird was truly fast.

With high fives and general elation, we drove to Murdo for gas and a quick bite before continuing.

Our afternoon route was a repeat of the previous day. At the pheasant bales, we paused to scan and saw the head of a bird peeking over the top of a bale. It was a small, grayish bob of a head with bits of white about the face. Overall, it seemed almost reminiscent of some cute pet animal like a gerbil. Not sure what to think, we inched forward until getting to the side of the bale. There we discovered that cute little rounded head sat on top of the massive shoulders of an adult gray-phase Gyrfalcon! Two gyrs in two hours; but this bird was simply stunning, and ambush hunting exactly like the first bird did earlier. I got some shots before it took off and quickly reached afterburner speed .

Farther on, we found a third massive falcon perched on a distant post. It flew. Based on size, heft and rounded wing-tips (for a falcon), we called it a third gyr – until it circled back overhead flashing black axillars: Prairie Falcon. It was remarkable how Gyrfalcon-like this Prairie Falcon was, but the big clue (apart from the black axillars) was how pale this bird was compared with the others. South Dakota Gyrfalcons almost entirely consist of gray-phase birds, and to my knowledge there's never been a white one. Big female Prairie Falcons can approach Gyrfalcons in size and when they do their body and wing shapes similarly change to resemble their larger cousin. An hour later, we arrived at the first gyr's bales to find another, slightly smaller bird on the exact same spot. It was a rough-leg. In other words, that "small" immature gyr was actually BIGGER than a Rough-legged Hawk. But in comparison to the huge hay bale, it seemed deceptively small. Good lessons. We finished the day with two more Prairie Falcons (of more "expected" size and proportion) and a "flock" of three Ferruginous Hawks. What a day!!!

Our third day was COLD, with temperatures as low as -12, but unlike the previous two days, it was cloudless. Most species were in greater abundance, and the photographic opportunities were remarkable. At one point, I was outside the car, photographing Golden and Bald Eagles in one tree when I looked up to see a Richardson's Merlin roaring past at close range. We also located a mixed flock of Greater Prairie Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse, and I got in-flight photos of both side by side. We ended the day exploring a new hotspot north of the town of Presho. For a mere three days of birding, we managed an impressive list of ten raptor species plus Snowy Owl, and not one vulture or accipiter in the mix.

I've done a lot of hawk-watching over the years but never anything quite like this. Central South Dakota is truly a hawk-watcher's paradise.

Young Birder Scholarships Available!

The Carolina Bird Club is pleased to announce a new program aimed at encouraging teenagers to participate in birding and conservation activities. The program provides a scholarship of up to $500 to assist young birders in attending camps and other events that specifically enhance birding skills and/or encourage avian conservation.

Scholarships are available to any young birder, aged 13 to 18, living in the Carolinas and who is a member of the Carolina Young Birders Club. Camps or events funded by the scholarships must be focused on bird-related content and support young birders' knowledge of birds, improve their birding skills, or enhance their educational awareness of the natural world.

Eligible expenses include registration fees, lodging, food, and program costs. Recipients of awards must confirm to the CBC in writing that camp or event registration is secured before the CBC will disburse funds. **Completed applications are accepted each year between January 1 and April 1.** Applicants will be notified no later than May 15 of their application results.

For information on the Carolina Young Birders Club, visit: http://www.carolinayoungbirdersclub.org.

For the scholarship application form, visit: http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/grants/ScholarshipForm.pdf

Lane Joins Executive Committee

Following the resignation of Scott Winton as Eastern North Carolina Vice President, President Irvin Pitts appointed Wilmington resident Sherry Lane to fill the unexpired term. The annual election for open Executive Committee positions is scheduled for the Blowing Rock spring meeting.

CBC Spring Election

As the calendar rolls toward spring, it can only mean one thing. Yes, time again for CBC officer elections. We promise that no one will call your home, plant "vote for" signs on your lawn, or bombard your television viewing hours with mud-slinging advertisements. But we would like for you to participate by reviewing the slate of nominees below and voting at the Blowing Rock meeting.

The nominees for Executive Committee positions are:

Western NC Vice President - Steve Tracy, Gastonia

Eastern NC Vice President - Sherry Lane, Wilmington

Western NC Member-at-Large - Mickey Shortt, Linville

Treasurer - Paul Serridge - Greenville, SC

Incumbents in positions eligible for re-election are:

President – Irvin Pitts, Lexington SC
(Second and final one-year term)

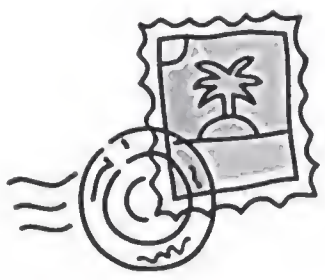
Secretary – Doris Ratchford, Todd NC
(Third and final one-year term)

SC Member-at-Large – Lewis Burke, Columbia
(Second and final two-year term)

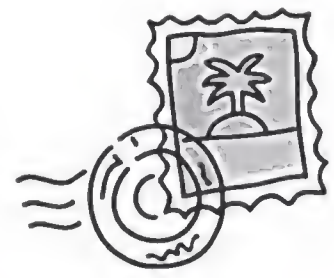
While the slate listed above are members who have expressed a willingness to serve, any member may be nominated from the floor at the time of the election.

The Newsletter and The Chat are online on the CBC website, and you can elect either electronic or paper delivery. The most recent electronic editions of each are only accessible to CBC members.

To access the "members only" content, you must first create a login and password.
This can be done at the Member Services page at:
http:// www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/



Save a Stamp!
Beginning 3/21 @ 8a.m. Register Online at www.carolinabirdclub.org!



CBC Blowing Rock Registration Form - April 2016

Name(s) _____

Address _____City_____State_____ Zip_____

Day Phone (_____) _____—_____ Evening phone (_____)_____—_____

Email _____

Meeting Registration (Member) ____ x $25 = $ _____
Meeting Registration (Non-member) ____ x $30 = $_____
Buffet Dinner ____ x $30 = $_____

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right. For evening trips, enter the trip number in the space provided below the grey box.

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/
Fri Eve. Choice #1	_____	Fri Eve. Choice #2	_____

Total Enclosed = $_____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip. Meeting registration at the door costs $35.

I release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature_____Date_____Signature_____Date_____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:
CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Before sending in this form, check the website at www.carolinabirdclub.org to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled, or cancelled.

Cancellations for the meeting will be refunded if received by Friday, April 15, 2016. *Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens. Register online for best availability of field trips.*

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org. If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

If you registered for the buffet and elect the vegetarian option check here: ◯ # persons _____

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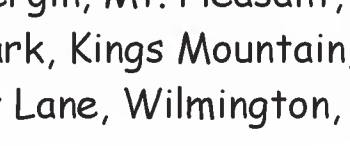
Raleigh, NC 27612



Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2016 - Beaufort, SC
Winter 2017 - Nags Head, NC

CBC Board Members

President, Irvin Pitts, Lexington, SC
pittsjam@windstream.net

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Teri Bergin, Mt. Pleasant, SC
Ron Clark, Kings Mountain, NC
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hq@carolinabirdclub.org
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919-608-2069, newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org
Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.

www.carolinabirdclub.org

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www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 62 June 2016 Number 3

Letter from the President

Dear CBC Members,

I wanted to take this opportunity to give an update on some of the more significant happenings involving the Carolina Bird Club Executive Committee. First, I would like to say thanks to the entire CBC Executive Committee for all their tremendous work, and a special thanks to Carol Bowman, our club secretary. I welcome Vivian Glover as our new Carolina Bird Club Newsletter Editor! As you probably know, Steve Shultz has decided to "retire" after serving 10 superb years as our Newsletter Editor. Thanks Steve for a job well done!

In This Issue

- CBC President Irvin Pitts- Significant Updates
- CBC Members Visit the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and Nags Head by Steve Shultz
- CBC Fall Meeting-Beaufort, South Carolina
- Sax-Zim Bog, Minnesota Birding When It's Sub-Zero
- CBC Offers, Opportunities & Information
- Welcome New Members!

"From Virginia Beach the caravan drove south to the marshes of Mackay Island NWR. Here we found the trip's first Tundra Swans and numbers of puddle ducks."

"Along nearby River Road, we spotted Greater Yellowlegs walking around in the snow, a new one for most of us, and ticked off a few shorebirds to cap off the trip list."

Steve Shultz

Good spirited CBC Birders, braving freezing temperatures and snow, pose at Bodie Island Lighthouse. ***Leader Steve Shultz.***

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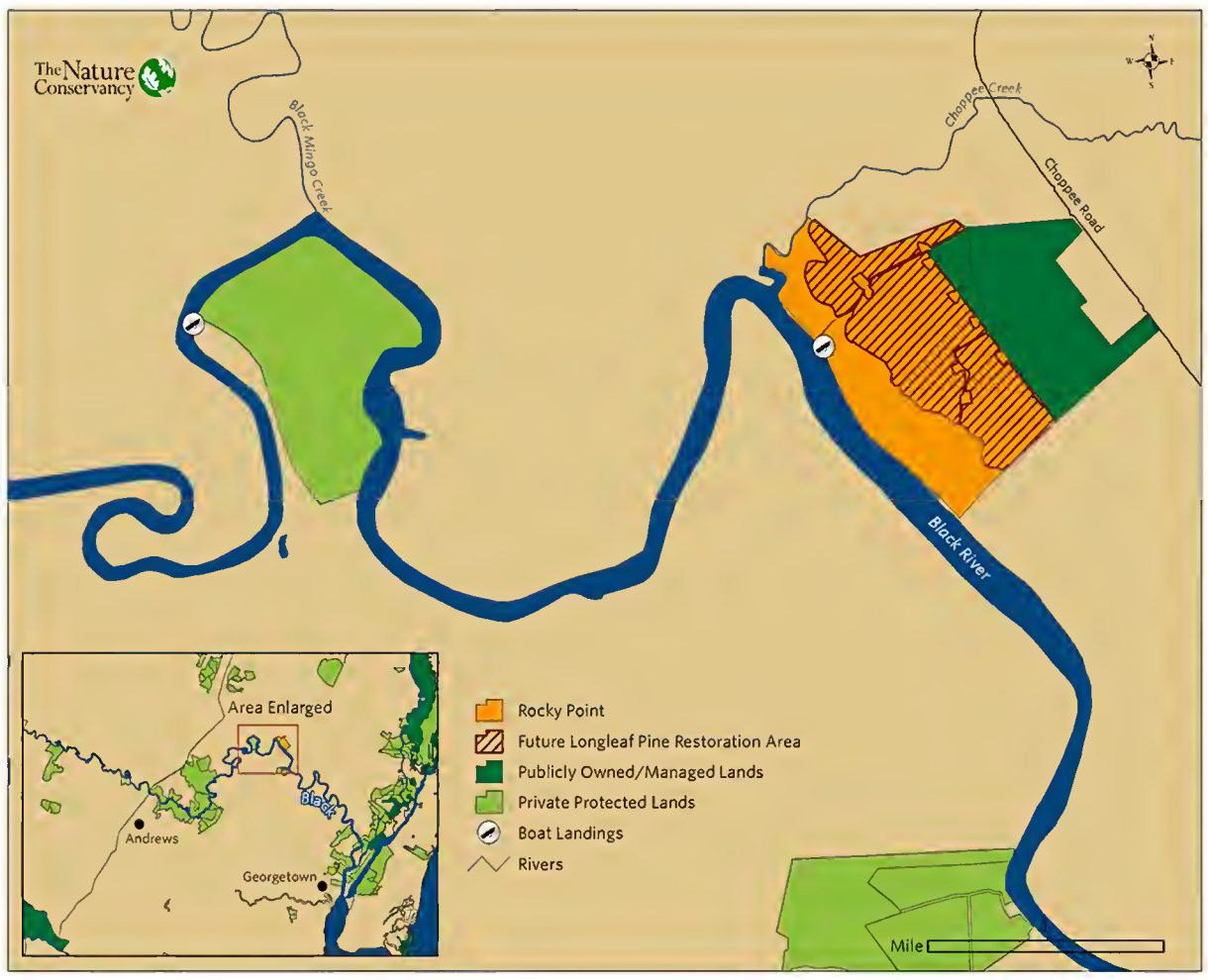
Letter from the President—Significant Updates

Rocky Point Conservation Tract



In the area of conservation, the CBC Executive Committee completed the final phase of its involvement with the acquisition of the 462-acre conservation tract on the banks of the Black River in Georgetown County, South Carolina, known as the Rocky Point Community Forest. The CBC supported this project with a donation of $68,066 from the "Haymaker Reserved Fund" through a partnership involving the Nature Conservancy, Winyah Rivers Foundation, Open Space Institute and other conservation organizations. Closing on this project was completed in December 2015 and CBC members had their first opportunity to bird here at our winter meeting in Litchfield. You can read more of this project in the February 2015 edition of our newsletter, found on our website.

Young Birders Scholarship

As part of an ongoing initiative, the CBC Executive Committee also continued their support of our "Carolina young birders". This year for the first time, we initiated a scholarship program, offering up to $500 to applicant young birders to support their attendance to birding camps and similar events. This scholarship is funded by CBC member donations. Thank you! It is my sincere wish that we can grow our support and welcome young birders at future seasonal meetings. Continued donations will allow us to do so. This is one way we can contribute to the future stewardship of our club, and who knows, support the next generation's great Ornithologist! Similarly, our grants program continues to support excellent projects throughout the Carolinas in the areas of research, education and conservation. Expect to hear more of the these programs real soon.

Share Your Knowledge

Science-based ornithological research has long been a cornerstone of the Carolina Bird Club and I would like to reiterate the importance that we as birders continue this legacy. Our state Bird Records Committees continue to do excellent work. I am especially pleased with the professionalism of our committees and of their efforts to increase communications among our birding community. I hope you will consider ways to contribute your knowledge of Carolina birdlife by documenting your sightings. Rare and significant findings should be submitted to our bird records committees for review, see applicable guidelines, and articles or notes can be submitted for publication in our journal The Chat. You can also post photos to our CBC website Photo Gallery, which is a quick meaningful way of sharing your observations. Also, consider contacting our Newsletter Editor about contributing possible articles on memorable field trip outings. There are many ways to participate! **(Continued p.3)**

Online Reservation & the CBC Website

Another recent development has been the revamping of our online reservation system for our seasonal meetings through our CBC website. The early response to this new system has been amazing and we hope to keep up with the demand in one way by developing a more extensive line-up of field trips with our upcoming meetings. The CBC Website is a wonderful resource, and if you haven't done so already, I encourage you to browse its contents. There is much of interest there including info on upcoming meetings, recent bird observations and where to find them and numerous helpful links. The photo gallery is one of my favorites.

The Chat is the official publication of the Carolina Bird Club, published quarterly and mailed to all qualified members. Manuscripts published in ***The Chat*** must be related to study of the birds of the Carolinas.
A typical issue of ***The Chat*** contains one or two articles or reports, one or more General Field Notes, Briefs for the Files, and sometimes Reviews.

I want to thank all of you for supporting the Carolina Bird Club. I hope you will continue being active members and I look forward to seeing you at future meetings or outings. Your suggestions and ideas are always welcome and your responses to our recent surveys is appreciated. Our club is filled with folks possessing many good talents and please don't hesitate to volunteer your "talents" to the club. There are many ways you can contribute: by volunteering to serve on the executive committee or as field trip leader and through other various contributions. Most importantly, have fun with birds and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Irvin Pitts

2015- A Very Good Nesting Season in SC for Wood Storks

Nesting Wood Storks—
SC Department of Natural Resources

From an SCDNR News Release -"Similar to last year, 2015 was an excellent year for Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*) nesting in South Carolina. 'The number of wood stork nests counted in South Carolina during 2015 (2,496 nests) was only slightly lower compared to 2014 (2,501 nests), the state record'said Christy Hand, S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Biologist. 'Chick survival was also very high for the second year in a row.' "

During 2015, storks nested in the following counties:

Beaufort (9 colonies)
Charleston (4 colonies)
Colleton (3 colonies)
Georgetown (2 colonies),
Bamberg (1 colony)
Hampton (1 colony)
Horry (1 colony) and
Jasper (1 colony

"Historically, Wood Storks used South Carolina as a feeding area during the summer and fall after dispersing from nesting colonies in Florida and Georgia. After much of their habitat in southern Florida was altered and lost, wood storks gradually began to expand their nesting range into South Carolina and more recently into North Carolina during the nesting season." For more about wood storks and other wading birds visit website (http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/species/wadingbirds/index.html).

Contributed by Steve Shultz

CBC Visits the CBBT and Nags Head-*Steve Shultz*

The mouth of the Chesapeake can be cold. Very cold. My birding buddies and I often argue whether the coldest spot in the Southeast during winter is on the Chesapea-Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT) or out on the cape at Hatteras. So cold temperatures are not really an eyebrow raiser when looking at the weather forecast for an upcoming birding trip, say the recent CBC Bonus Trip to the CBBT and its southerly neighbor, Nags Head. Even the Winter Weather Advisory suggesting a dusting of snow didn't really elicit much response. But these two words did: Gale Warning. For while visitors to the CBBTs three restricted-access islands may be sufficiently hardy to weather low temperatures and the vagaries of winter precipitation, strong winds often result in traffic restrictions on the 17.6-mile link between the Tidewater and the Eastern Shore.

In spite of the daunting forecast, the majority of the roll arrived early on Saturday morning, February 13th, at the CBBT's south toll plaza. Here we received the bad news; while we could visit island #1 and the observation point on the north sho[illegible] our police escort would otherwise be occupied assisting h[illegible]gh-profile vehicles. Nonetheless, we gamely grouped into as few vehicles as possible (no sense in paying more [illegible]han necessary) and set out for island #1. Strong nort[illegible]st winds blowing the length of the Chesapeake pil[illegible] up massive waves that, when breaking on the rocky shores of the four man-made islands, created streamers of near freezing spray. Sea ducks bobbed in the undulating [illegible]ater, all pointing into the wind like so many small, dark, windsocks. Gannets realized that they did not need to flap at all in order to fly, just set wings at the correct angle of attack, and off you go. (Continued p.5)

CBC Birders at the Bodie Island Lighthouse.

*(The current **Bodie Island Lighthouse** is the third that has stood in this vicinity of Bodie Island on the Outer Banks in North Carolina and was built in 1872. It stands 156 feet (48 m) tall and is located on the Roanoke Sound side of the first island that is part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The lighthouse is just south of Nags Head, a few miles before Oregon Inlet. It was renovated from August 2009 to March 2013, and was made climbable by the public. The preceding Bodie Island lighthouses actually stood south of Oregon Inlet on Pea Island in an area now under water. The first was built in 1847 and then abandoned in 1859 due to a poor foundation. The second, built in 1859, was destroyed in 1861 by retreating Confederate troops who feared it would be used as a Union observation post during the Civil War. The third and current lighthouse, with its original first order Fresnel lens, was completed in 1872.—**Wikipedia)***

CBC Visits the CBBT and Nags Head

While one might think that the temperatures, in the low 20s, might be the biggest comfort concern, the blistering wind created more of an issue. With gusts topping out at 55 mph, smart birders found convenient windbreaks from which to observe the local avian population. The shelters consisted of utility trailers, squat brick buildings, strategically located trash cans, and at least one road sign.

Fortunately the birds also found the lee to their liking, and we were able to leisurely observe Purple Sandpipers going about their business, Ruddy Turnstones looking for Cheetos, Surf and Black Scoters drifting on the sea, and Great Cormorant, Brant, Greater Scaup, long skeins of Red-breasted Merganser, and more.

The Red-breasted Merganser breeding habitat is freshwater lakes and rivers across northern North America, Greenland, Europe, and Asia. It nests in sheltered locations on the ground near water. It is migratory and many northern breeders winter in coastal waters further south.

A Peregrine Falcon put on quite a show, first stooping on and capturing a duck, then kiting in the wind between bouts of high speed passes that kept the gulls more or less on their toes. Northern Gannets passed close overhead, while a bit higher, Red-throated Loons flew out to sea. Other than the loons, most of the birds were heading into the wind and making for the bay.

An observation point near the complex's north terminus provided chances to see more Surf Scoters and Bufflehead, while adding several land-centric species to our budding trip list.

After a more-elegant-than-necessarily-expected-during-a-birding-trip lunch at local favorite *Taste*, we invaded the Pleasure Point area where several folks picked up lifer looks at Lesser Black-backed Gull (conveniently standing next to a Great Black-backed Gull) and others notched year-bird Fish Crows. While the recently observed Western Tanager was not present, lots of little woodland birds provided post-lunch entertainment.

From Virginia Beach the caravan drove south to the marshes of Mackay Island NWR. Here we found the trip's first Tundra Swans and numbers of puddle ducks. Lucky observers noted four River Otters examining the ice recently formed on their roadside swimming pools.

After a night in Nags Head, the group reconvened at Bodie Island Lighthouse at dawn. Crisp, clear skies and a coating of new-fallen snow made for a nice photo opportunity of the historic light. Much of the lighthouse pond was covered in a skim of fresh ice, but a reasonable variety of ducks made for fun.

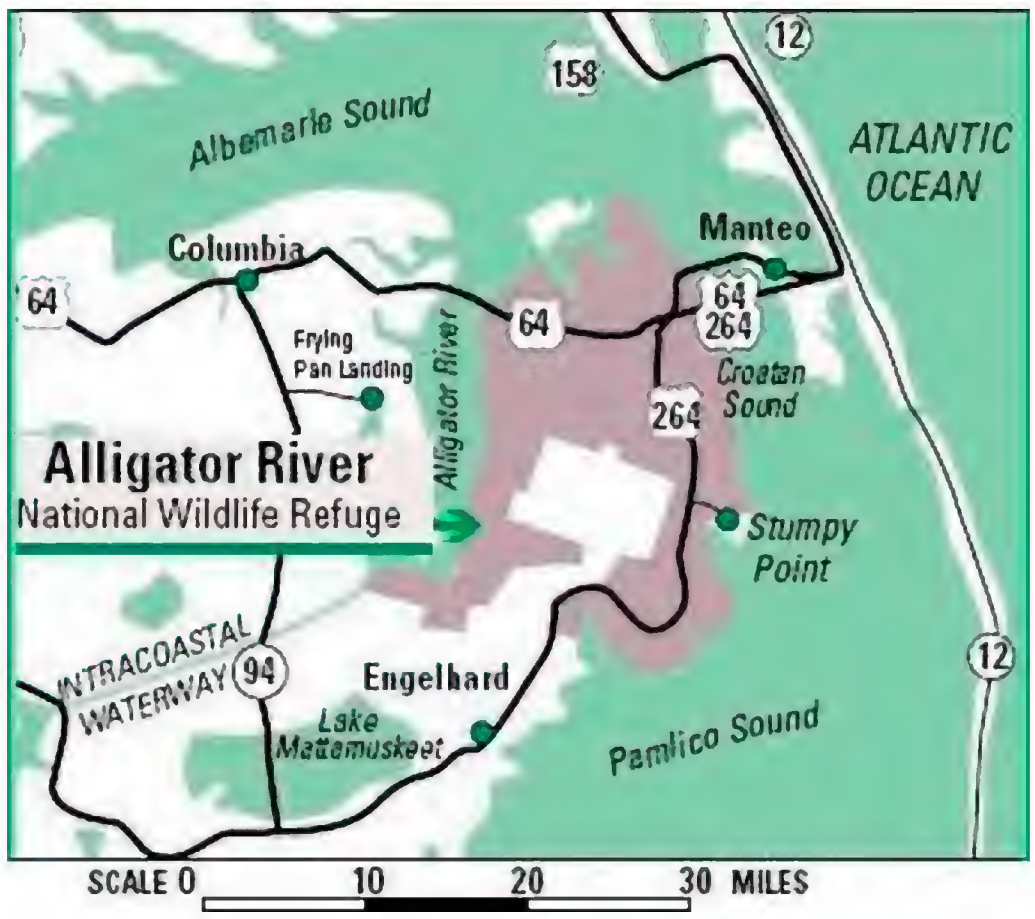
(Continued p.6)

CBC Visits the CBBT and Nags Head

Much like Bodie, the impoundments of Pea Island sported much ice, and many of the recently reported flocks of birds appeared to have moved on. We did spot the local avocets, hundreds strong, huddled together for easy viewing, and took advantage of the wind shadows created by the east-west dikes to sort through the waterfowl gathered nearby. Looking east, we enjoyed the sight of hundreds of scoters passing to and fro just past the ice-encrusted boiler of the Oriental.

Mostly frozen impoundments along Milltail and Sawyer Lake Roads meant, conveniently for us, that waterfowl and other birds nestled in the deeper water close to the roads. Wilson's Snipe looked slightly perturbed at the thought of foraging in frozen ground, but seemed to take the cold snap in stride.

Retreating to the relative calm of Roanoke Island, we stopped at a Painted Bunting stake-out, enjoying the brilliant tropical colors of what may be the Lower 48's most colorful songbird, before hitting the White's service station for lunch. From a gas station perspective, this joint offers some of the best food around, just what we needed as sustenance to prolong our trip with a visit to nearby Alligator River NWR.



Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge *was established on March 14, 1984. It contains 152,195 acres which lie on the mainland portions of Dare and Hyde Counties, North Carolina. The Refuge is roughly 28 miles from north to south and 15 miles from east to west. It is bordered on the west by the Alligator River and the Intracoastal Waterway; on the north by Albemarle Sound; on the east by Croatan and Pamlico Sounds; and on the south by Long Shoal River and corporate farmland.*

Tundra Swans slipped and skidded on the ice, no doubt wishing that the sun would do its job and melt the thin sheet quickly. Shovelers, teal, wigeon and more rested on dikes or floated in open patches of water, many posing nicely for photos. One enterprising drake Wood Duck noted our arrival with the usual suspicion vested in gamebirds. Instead of leaping into the air to head for more secure quarters, this clever duck partially submerged, extended his head and neck so that just the eyes and nostrils were above water, and slowly paddled into nearby flooded timber.

Along nearby River Road, we spotted Greater Yellowlegs walking around in the snow, a new one for most of us, and ticked off a few shorebirds to cap off the trip list. After bestowing Chris Clack with the door prize for guessing the closest to the actual number of species seen, we cranked up the car heaters and headed west.

So the weather was a bit less than optimal, but we still found some neat birds, and more common birds doing neat things, and generally had a good time doing it. So while windy and a bit cool, I think most agree that the trip accomplished its goal of "having fun".

Look for another version (hopefully less windy) of this popular offering next season!

Beaufort, SC to Host Fall Meeting

From Steve McInnis

Greetings CBC Members,

The fall 2016 Carolina Bird Club meeting is in Beaufort, SC on September 30 and October 1.

The coast of South Carolina offers great fall birding! The last meeting in Beaufort, SC was held in the fall of 2011. Participants tallied 203 species, which ties for second highest in the CBC records. On top of high species count, Beaufort offers diverse field trips and experienced field trip leaders.

Hunting Island State Park, SC

Scenic and Historic Beaufort, SC

Abundant birds bring birders, and Beaufort is the fourth highest in attendance, which occurred Fall 1996. In addition, this Beaufort meeting will offer two outstanding speakers! On top of all these positive attributes, the Beaufort hotel expense will be very low, which makes this meeting a great birding value!

Fall Migration

The field trips will take full benefit of fall migration. Migration concentrates on the coast and Beaufort will take full advantage by featuring the coastal plain. Field trips will travel to various habitats, such as Bear Island WMA, Donnelly WMA, Pinckney Island, Hunting Island, Savannah River Spoils Site and Savannah NWR.

Excellent Bird Counts

These interesting and enjoyable field trips will yield excellent bird counts. In 2011, 28 warbler species were seen, which included Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Worm-eating and Swainson's. Additional species seen were Mottled Duck, Ruddy Duck, Least Bittern, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork and Seaside Sparrow. In 2016, we will offer these trips and additional trips to Botany Bay Plantation and ACE Basin. **(Continued p.8)**

Botany Bay Plantation, Edisto Island, SC

Beaufort Meeting

In addition to extensive field trips, we are happy to announce our speakers. The Friday night speaker will be **Sharon Richardson, Executive Director of Audubon of South Carolina**. Ms. Richardson will tell us about all the activities Audubon is providing in South Carolina. The Saturday speaker will be **Ted Floyd, Editor of the American Birding Association's "Birding" magazine**. Ted is the editor for "Birding" magazine, which is the flagship publication of the America Birding Association. A former college-level instructor, Ted is a regular lecturer at ABA's Institute of Field Ornithology

Beaufort's Blend of Cultures

In addition to the speakers, the field trips and the birds, Beaufort is an extraordinary and picturesque setting. Beaufort has churches and mansions as far back as 1720's. Beaufort's cultures are a blend of Native Americans, Spanish, French, English and the African Gullah. To take in these cultures, you can take a walking tour of the mansions, ride a horse-drawn carriage or visit the many art galleries. For the more conventional, you can go shopping, pick up handmade chocolates, or walk the town's waterfront. If you still have extra time, you can go to the many of the adjacent islands, spend time with the Live Oak trees and lighthouses.

Historic African American Penn Center, St. Helena Island, Beaufort County, SC

Picturesque Beaufort has been featured in many films including 'Forrest Gump,' 'Prince of Tides,' 'The Big Chill,' and 'The Great Santini.' Beaufort is the home of late author Pat Conroy.

Meeting Headquarters—Quality Inn Town Center

Our headquarters will be the Quality Inn at Town Center, at 2001 Boundary Street, in downtown Beaufort. The hotel is situated just a few blocks from the historic section of town.

Quality Inn Town Center, Beaufort, SC

Since our 2011 meeting, the Quality Inn has gained new neighbors, such as Starbucks, Jimmy John's Sandwich Shop, Moe's Southwest Grill, Red Rooster Café and Hilton Garden Inn, which have located next door. To combat five years of inflation, the Quality Inn has kept their prices the same and added a free breakfast.

Rates are very competitive at $52.99 for double, queen or king per night (not including taxes). Queen & king rooms include a microwave and a fridge. All rooms have complimentary Wi-Fi connection. And, there is a computer available for guest use in the lobby. These rates will be available for the nights of Sept. 29 through Oct. 1, for club members.

Numerous birding opportunities, great birds, extensive field trips, good speakers, a popular location and a picturesque scenery will make the fall 2016 CBC meeting at Beaufort, SC, a wonderful meeting. Call the Quality Inn and reserve your room, today. The next newsletter will contain more meeting details, registration forms and field trip descriptions.

To reserve your room, call Quality Inn at 843-524-2144. Be sure to tell them you are with the Carolina Bird Club.

Winter Birding in Northern Minnesota

In February, CBC Member, Steve Compton, headed to Duluth, Minnesota for a special winter birding experience.
"The festival and visitor center cater to birders who come from all over to see birds that are very hard to find elsewhere in the US." ***Steve Compton***

"The festival conducts daily guided tours using city school buses. We had to scrape the inside of the windows with an ice scraper." ***Steve Compton***

Spotted was the Pine Grosbeak "eating cranberries." Steve Compton's Sax-Zim Bog Birding Expedition will be featured in the July issue of the CBC Newsletter.
Submissions by CBC Members welcomed.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB OFFERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Research and education grants:

The CBC provides grants to support research, education and conservation of birds of the Carolinas and their habitats. Grant applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. The CBC Grants Committee meets quarterly to review applications.
For guidelines and additional information visit: www.carolinabirdclub.org/grants

Conservation grants:

An official representative of the conservation organization should send an application which includes:

- Details of the purpose of the grant request.
- Project plans (with dates) as appropriate.

For guidelines and additional information visit: www.carolinabirdclub.org/grants

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Carolina Young Birders Club

We are a club for any young person aged 8-19 who has a interest in birds and lives in the Carolinas. It's free to join- all that we ask is to stay in contact with us and participate!

If you are a young birder or know a young birder in the Carolinas, please e-mail at - **mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org**.
Also, if parents or relatives are interested in helping with the club they can become adult facilitators aiding with the logistics of the club.

Check out our Events and Field Trips Page for upcoming trips at www.carolinayoungbirdersclub.org

Carolina Bird Club Online Store

Check out the array of CBC merchandize including:

- Men's and Women's Shirts
- Men's and Women's Sweatshirts and Outerwear
- Stainless Steel Water Bottles and Stainless Steel Mugs
- Tote bags
- Caps

Visit—http://www.cafepress.com/carolinabirdclub

Welcome New CBC Members!

Dr. W.D. Altman, Chester, SC

Scott Anderson, Raleigh, NC

Toni & Ralph Baric, Haw River NC

Jacy Bernath-Plaisted, Greenville, NC

John & Mary Brammer, Charlotte, NC

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Mona Sadler, Bayboro, NC

John Satterfield, Emerald Isle, NC

Michael, Kathy & Jennifer Saunders
Little River, SC

John Scavetto, Charlotte, NC

Steve Shaffer, New Bern, NC

Sharon & Rob Smart, Raleigh, NC

Louis & Pallas Teer, Morehead City, NC

Jean Trent, Seattle, WA

Sharon Watson, Columbia, SC

Michelle Wilcox, Southern Pines, NC

James Wilkins, Greenville, SC

Dee Dee Williams, Columbia, SC

Tracy & Rick Young, Hendersonville, NC

Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2016 - Beaufort, SC

Winter 2017 - Nags Head, NC

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pittsjam@windstream.net

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newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The ***CBC Newsletter*** is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. **Current dues are**: Individual & non-profit, $25; Family, $30; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, $30; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).
Membership dues of $25 include $4 for a subscription to ***CBC Newsletter*** and $5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. **Cost for CBC bird checklists**, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00.
Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2016.

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CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 62 August 2016 Number 4

A Special Time with Warblers in Blowing Rock

The charming town of Blowing Rock provided a wonderful location for our Spring 2016 Carolina Bird Club meeting weekend. In this beautiful mountain setting, more than 170 registered participants enjoyed fine birding and fellowship amongst a backdrop of spectacular scenery and historic attractions. In addition to great birding, many enjoyed unique downtown experiences including local craft shops and fine dining at cafes and restaurants. Our meeting was headquartered at the Green Park Inn, a well-preserved hotel first opened in 1891. The Inn gave us a perfect cultural setting and good access to the Blue Ridge Parkway and other premier mountain birding sites. **/Continued P..8.**

Fall Meeting on the South Carolina Coast—Steve McInnis

Picturesque Beaufort, SC offers some of the best birding along the South Carolina coast. The 2011 Beaufort fall meeting tallied 203 species, which is a close second to the Outer Banks (204 species). Then, think of the field trips to Bear Island… Donnelley… Savannah NWR… Botany Bay WMA… These sites are hallowed ground to Lowcountry birders, and we will visit them all and more during the upcoming Carolina Bird Club 2016 Fall Meeting! Field trips will be offered on Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1.

New field trip locations will include Caw Caw Interpretive Center with 6 miles of trails and 1,435 feet of elevated boardwalk within its 654 acres. At Caw Caw, enslaved Africans carved a series of rice fields out of the cypress swamps. A new trip to National Audubon's Francis Beidler Forest will also be offered. You will see 1,800 acres of old-growth swamp forest and walk the new 1.75-mile-long boardwalk, in Four Holes Swamp.

While on a field trip, one of your leaders might be Saturday night's speaker, Ted Floyd. Ted is the editor of "Birding" magazine, which is the flagship publication of American Birding Association. Ted is a frequent instructor at ABA's Institute for Field Ornithology and was the keynote speaker at ABA's 2015 Birding Rally in Spearfish, South Dakota. Ted has written more than 125 published articles on birds and ecological topics. In addition to speaking, Ted will assist with leading several field trips.

Our Friday night speaker will be Sharon Richardson, the new Executive Director for Audubon South Carolina. Last year, Sharon was hired to replace Norman Brunswig, upon his retirement after 41 years of service. Sharon will be speaking about the many things Audubon does in South Carolina, including managing the Francis Beidler Forest and Silver Bluff Sanctuary.

Our headquarters for the meeting is the Quality Inn at Town Center, located at 2001 Boundary Street in downtown Beaufort.

Scenic and Historic Beaufort, SC

The Quality Inn will host our registration, meetings and Saturday night buffet. The excellent CBC rates for rooms are $52.99 (double beds) for the nights of Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and Oct. 2. Due to the Marines adding a second graduating platoon on Thursday, Sept. 29, that night's rate will become $109, once the 40 room allotment is reached. All rooms and rates include a microwave, fridge, complimentary Wi-Fi connection and a free hot breakfast. The complimentary hot breakfast is open 6 am till 9 am., early enough for all field trip departure times. There is a 24-hour notice cancellation policy on individual reservations. Check-in time is 3pm and check-out time is 12 noon. Cut-off date for making reservations under the group block is September 8, 2016. Any reservations made after that date are subject to hotel availability and available rates. Contact the Quality Inn at 843-524-2144 to make your reservations. Be sure to mention the Carolina Bird Club in order to receive the group rates. The Quality Inn's sales manager is Allyson Dykeman. **/Continued P. 2**

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Fall Meeting on the South Carolina Coast

A second option for lodging is one mile away from the Quality Inn at Town Center, which is the Hampton Inn, located at 2342 Boundary Street. The Carolina Bird Club rate for rooms is $102 nightly, Sept. 29 (Thursday) through the morning of Oct. 2 (Sunday). (All prices are before taxes.) This rate is good for rooms with 2 Queen beds or a King bed. Hampton Inn offers a complimentary hot breakfast, which opens at 6 am. The cancellation policy is 24- hour notice. Check-in time is 3pm and check-out time is 11 am. Cut-off date for making reservations under the group block is September 8, 2016. Any reservations made after that date are subject to hotel availability and available rates. Contact the Hampton Inn at 843-986-0600 and mention the Carolina Bird Club to get our special rates!

The Saturday night buffet will be prepared by Holmes Catering of St. Helena, SC. The buffet will include roast beef, baked chicken, vegetable lasagna, mashed potatoes, green beans, steamed veggies, tossed salad, rolls, and ice tea. Dessert will be cake and assorted cheesecake. The cost will be $31 per person.

Register for the buffet at the same time you register for the meeting. Online registration opens on Saturday, August 20 at 2pm. Online registration will close September 24 at 8 am. CBC refund cut-off date is Sept. 16.

In summary, I think you will find Beaufort to be a historic and beautiful area for the fall CBC meeting. You will meet interesting speakers from Audubon S.C. and American Birding Association. Lots of field trips are offered with many new additions. Finally, and best of all, you will bird a very birdy part of South Carolina!

Beaufort Field Trip Description

Friday, Sep 30

Half-day Morning

Trip #1	Hunting Island—7:15 AM
Trip #2	Harbor Island—7:15 AM
Trip #3	Combahee Unit—7:45 AM
Trip #4	Savannah NWR—7:00 AM
Trip #5	Beaufort & Vicinity—7:45 AM
Trip #6	Fripp Island—6:45 AM
Trip #7	Caw Caw—7:00 AM
Trip #8	Bear Island—6:30 AM

Half-day Afternoon

Trip #9	Savannah NWR—12:30 PM
Trip #10	Bear Island—12:30 PM
Trip #11	Hunting Island—12:45 PM
Trip #12	Harbor Island—12:45 PM
Trip #13	Beaufort & Vicinity —1:00 PM
Trip #14	Combahee Unit—1:00 PM

All-day

Trip #15	Bear Island & Bennett's Point Rd.—6:45 AM
Trip #16	Francis Beidler Forest—7:00 AM
Trip #17	Pinckney Island & Hilton Head—7:00 AM
Trip #18	Savannah NWR—7:30 AM

Saturday, Oct 1

Half-day Morning

Trip #19	Hunting Island—7:15 AM
Trip #20	Harbor Island—7:15 AM
Trip #21	Combahee Unit—7:45 AM
Trip #22	Savannah NWR—7:00 AM
Trip #23	Beaufort & Vicinity —7:45 AM
Trip #24	Fripp Island—6:45 AM
Trip #25	Caw Caw—7:00 AM
Trip #26	Donnelley WMA—6:45 AM

Half-day Afternoon

Trip #27	Savannah NWR—12:30 PM
Trip #28	Donnelley WMA—12:30 PM
Trip #29	Hunting Island—12:45 PM
Trip #30	Harbor Island—12:45 PM
Trip #31	Beaufort & Vicinity —1:00 PM
Trip #32	Combahee Unit—1:00 PM

All-day

Trip #33	Francis Beidler Forest—7:00 AM
Trip #34	Pinckney Island & Hilton Head—7:30 AM
Trip #35	Savannah NWR—7:30 AM

Important Notes for Your Trip

In order to give you a place to obtain additional information about the trip sites, each site that can be found in CBC website, Jeff Mollenhauer's F guide (A Falcon Guide) or Robin Carter's guide are marked in the trip descriptions as follows: CBC website, JM, RC.

- Just in case, bring your warm weather gear (sun screen, hats, light clothing, etc.) as it can be warm in Beaufort this time of year.
- Be sure to pack a lunch and snacks for the all-day trips and due to the tight schedules, you might want to pack a lunch for the half-day trips also. Each trip is noted as to availability of public restrooms.
- All field trips have a participation limit of 16. The Francis Beidler trip has a minimum requirement of five.
- All trips will leave from the hotel. If the trip leader is to meet you at the site, one person will be assigned as the guide to get you to the site. Site directions will be available at registration. If you plan to meet your trip at the site, be sure to let your trip leader know in advance.

Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1, 11, 19 & 29 - Hunting Island State Park: CBC website, JM, RC

This island is over four miles of beach, thousands of acres of marsh, tidal creeks and maritime forest, a saltwater lagoon and ocean inlet. There is a long fishing pier on the south end of the island. The Hunting Island Lighthouse stands 132.5 feet tall, giving breathtaking views of the Lowcountry marshland, the slash pine/cabbage palmetto/live oak forest, and the Atlantic Ocean. Admission is $5/adult, $3.25 for SC seniors. Bring your state park pass if you have one. Some of the target birds are Painted Buntings, Piping Plovers, rails, tanagers, orioles, pelicans, oystercatchers, skimmers, terns, herons, and egrets.
Approximate travel time: 30 minutes
Facilities: Restrooms available, at several locations.
Access conditions: This trip will involve light to moderate walking.

Trips 2, 12, 20, & 30 - Harbor Island:

Nestled between St. Helena and Hunting Islands in Beaufort County, Harbor Island is a 1,400-acre private community on the Harbor River & Johnson Creek. Three small ponds on the island provide a roost for egrets and herons and there is a rather large rookery in the spring. The south side of the island is good for shore birds. Some of the target birds are plovers, oystercatchers, skimmers, wading birds, and terns.
Approximate travel time: 25-30 minutes
Facilities: No Restrooms.
Access conditions: This trip will involve easy to light walking.

Trips 3, 14, 21, & 32 – Combahee Unit, ACE Basin NWR:

Over 2 miles of walking trails through wetlands, old rice fields, canals and estuaries. ACE is an acronym for Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers. The Combahee (pronounced Come-bee) will provide Wood Duck, Mallard, heron, ibis, Osprey, Wood Stork and Bald Eagles.
Approximate travel time: 35 minutes
Facilities: No restrooms.
Access conditions: This trip will involve light to moderate walking, on uneven surfaces.

Trips 4, 9, 22, & 27 - Savannah NWR: CBC website, JM, RC (Restroom available at the main parking)

Half Day Trips—Savannah NWR consists of over 29,000 acres of freshwater marshes, tidal rivers and creeks and bottomland hardwoods. The refuge provides nesting areas for Wood Ducks, Great Horned Owls, Bald Eagles, Osprey and Swallow-tailed Kites among others. The kites and storks will probably be gone by the end of September. As many as 13 species of duck either live in or migrate through this refuge. Other bird types found here include coots, moorhens, Purple Gallinules, Soras, egrets, herons, and shorebirds along with other migrating bird species. This trip basically covers the 5 mile driving tour (Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive) with multiple stops.
Approximate travel time: 50 minutes
Facilities: No restrooms on Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive. Restrooms are only available at the Visitor Center, which is 4 miles away.
Access conditions: This trip will involve easy to light walking. **/Continued P. 4**

Field Trip Descriptions (Continued)

Trips 18 & 35 - Savannah NWR: CBC website, JM, RC

Full Day Trips—This is the same trip as the above half-day trips except you will have time to take in some of the walking trails. This will allow a chance to get more of those migrants passing through.
Approximate travel time: 50 minutes
Facilities: No restrooms on Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive. Restrooms are only available at the Visitor Center, which is 4 miles away.
Access conditions: This trip will involve moderate to heavy walking.

Trips 5, 13, 23, & 31 - Beaufort & Vicinity:

Port Royal Boardwalk Park (CBC website, JM), Broad River (JM), Chechessee River Estuaries (RC) and Cypress Wetlands. Port Royal Boardwalk is 0.2 miles long. It runs through salt-marsh and mud flats and has a tall observation platform. West of Beaufort there is a series of broad tidal estuaries interspersed with salt marshes. Two of these, the Broad and Chechessee Rivers are easily birded from dry land. Some of the target birds are ducks, rails, ibis, gulls, terns, shore birds, herons, egrets, and migrants.
Approximate travel time: 10 minutes
Facilities: No Restrooms.
Access conditions: This trip will involve easy to moderate walking.

Trips 26 & 28 - Donnelley WMA: CBC website, JM

Donnelley WMA is 8,000 acres of unique property which is a cross section of the Lowcountry and encompasses a diversity of wetland and upland habitats including: managed rice fields, forested wetland, tidal marsh, agricultural lands and a variety of upland types, including a natural stand of longleaf pine. Some of the target birds here are Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Anhinga, coot, Purple Gallinule, Sora, herons & egrets. Insect repellent is advisable. This is the only day during this meeting that Donnelley is open to birding.
Approximate travel time: 40 minutes
Facilities: No Restrooms.
Access conditions: This trip will involve easy to moderate walking.

Trips 17 & 34 - Pinckney Island NWR & Hilton Head: CBC website, JM, RC

Pinckney Island NWR is a 4,000 acre refuge that was once an early 19th century plantation. The island consists of salt marsh, forestland, brushland, fallow field and freshwater ponds. The great diversity of habitat makes for some great birding. Some of the target birds are waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, migrants and large concentrations of White Ibis, herons, and egrets. Fish Haul Creek Park is a good place to find shorebirds and terns. The target birds for the 0.3 mile boardwalk are Clapper Rail and Seaside Sparrow.
Approximate travel time: 45-50 minutes
Facilities: No Restrooms.
Access conditions: This trip will involve moderate walking.

Trip 8 & 10 - Bear Island: CBC website, JM, RC

Bear Island is a combination of old rice fields and marsh and provides some of the best birding in South Carolina. Some of the target birds are Bald Eagle, Mottled Duck, King Rail, herons, egrets, and shorebirds. If the water levels are low the shorebirds can be in large numbers. This is the only day during this meeting that Bear Island is open to birding.
Approximate travel time: 50 minutes
Facilities: No Restrooms.
Access conditions: $5/person to enter the County Park. This trip will involve easy to moderate walking.

Field Trip Descriptions (Continued)

Trips 15 - Bear Island & road to Bennett's Point: CBC website, JM, RC

Bear Island is a combination of old rice fields and marsh and provides some of the best birding in South Carolina. Some of the target birds are Bald Eagle, Mottled Duck, King Rail, herons, egrets, and shorebirds. If the water levels are low the shorebirds can be in large numbers. On the drive to Bennett's Point, look for Clapper Rails, Gull-billed, Least and Royal Terns plus Black Skimmers.

Approximate travel time: 50 minutes

Facilities: No Restrooms.

Access conditions: This trip will involve moderate walking.

Trips 6 & 24 – Fripp Island:

Fripp Island is a gated island and is adjacent to Hunting Island. Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Storks, herons, egrets, ibis, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawks, Caspian & Common Terns, Black Skimmers, and eight warbler species have been seen late September and early October. This is the first time the club has been granted access to Fripp.

Approximate travel time: 45 minutes

Facilities: Restrooms available.

Access conditions: A guard and gate at the island entrance.

Trips 7 & 25 - Caw Caw Nature and History Interpretive Center:

Located near Ravenel, this Charleston County Park is situated on land that was once historic rice plantations. The park consists of 1,000 acres of diverse coastal habitats including cypress/ tupelo swamps, a tidal saltmarsh, freshwater and brackish water impoundments, and upland and bottomland forests. The property is accessed by six miles of trails and offers easy and quality birding. Over 250 species of birds have been documented in the park, and we hope to find marsh wading birds, rails, owls, vireos, wrens, migrant warblers, and others.

Approximate travel time: 60 minutes

Facilities: Restrooms available.

Access conditions: $5/person fee to enter the County Park. This trip will involve easy to moderate walking.

Trips 16 & 33 - The Audubon Center at Francis Beidler Forest

This Audubon sanctuary contains a portion of what is considered the largest remaining old-growth cypress-tupelo swamp in the world, known as Four Holes Swamp. Participants will experience the majestic wonder of this swampland along the NEW 1.75-mile boardwalk. Birds we hope to find include Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and other wading birds including Wood Stork, a variety of woodpeckers, and migrating songbirds.

Approximate Travel Time: 90 minutes

Facilities: Restrooms available.

Access conditions: $10/person fee, with 5 people as the required minimum. This trip involves easy walking on a wooden boardwalk. Participants should be prepared for possible mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and bringing insect repellent.

Registration Form on Page 11.

Carolina Bird Club Online Store

Check out the array of CBC merchandise including:

- Men's and Women's Shirts
- Men's and Women's Sweatshirts and Outerwear
- Stainless Steel Water Bottles and Stainless Steel Mugs
- Tote bags
- Caps

Visit—http://www.cafepress.com/carolinabirdclub

Blue Ridge Parkway Field Trip—Steve Shultz
September 17-18, 2016

Join us as we seek out and enjoy roving flocks of fall migrants on the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway.

Are you a fan of warblers? Then this trip is for you. Mid to late September is the peak of fall migration for warblers in the Carolinas.

America's Favorite Drive—the Blue Ridge Parkway from motorhome.com.

This is the time when a variety of warblers abandon their breeding season stratification and join together with vireos, tanagers, cuckoos, grosbeaks and more to feast on the little buggy things that power their southward migration. These flocks frequently follow the crests of the Appalachian ranges, and we hope to encounter a variety of species as we travel the scenic Parkway. While not as common in the lowlands, up here on the Blue Ridge, Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers often take center stage, with many others playing supporting roles.

Sound like fun? Act quickly as space on this Bonus Trip is limited to 10 participants. This smaller group makes individualized interaction with the trip leaders easier and allows us to help you with identifying any of those "confusing fall warblers".

Logistics:

This trip visits the Blue Ridge Parkway in northern North Carolina and southern Virginia on September 17 and 18th. We will depart from Sparta, NC at 7 a.m. Saturday and Sunday with a full day of birding on Saturday and a half day on Sunday. Registration cost is $30. You must be a member of the Carolina Bird Club to attend, but you may join at the same time as you register if you are currently not a member. Participants are responsible for lodging, meals, and transportation. All levels of birding experience are welcome.

Parking alongside the Parkway can be limited. Please plan to carpool as we will endeavor to combine into as few vehicles as possible. Environmental hazards are few, and annoying insects are not usually problematic, but bring a rain jacket and sweater in case of showers or cool weather.

Blue Ridge Parkway through North Carolina and northern Virginia from motorhome.com.

To Register:

Contact Steve Shultz at sshultz@nc.rr.com or by phone at **919-608-2069** for a reserved slot and a registration form. If your plans should change after registration, refunds are available through August 29th. After August 29th refunds are available if we can fill your slot.

Welcome New Members!

Lyle Armstrong
Ventura, CA

Megan Brogan
John Kraljevich
Riley Leeper
Andrew Deal
Fort Mill, SC

Jane Brown
Efland, NC

Kay Creighton
Peggy Myles
Bryson City, NC

Nan Dewire
Chapel Hill, NC

Diane & Rich Duloft
Wild Birds Unlimited
Surfside Beach, SC

Matthew & Laura Eison - **NEW LIFE MEMBERS**
Greenville, SC

Jim Gates
Raleigh, NC

Robert Gould
New Bern, NC

Jane & Stan Hurt
Greenville, SC

Stephen Irwin
Wake Forest, NC

Nicholas Johnson
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Dennis Kent
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Maria Steve
Charleston, SC

Susan Todd
Loris, SC

Loretta VanHaasteren
Raleigh, NC

Ray Woody
Cary, NC

Christina, Eddie & Isabel Walter
Gastonia, NC

Katherine & George Wimmer
Rock Hill, SC

Winter Birding In Northern Minnesota—Steve Compton

Richard Hayes (right) and others in sub-zero gear.

Why visit the coldest place in the Lower 48 in the dead of Winter? How about Great Gray Owls, Boreal Chickadees, Bohemian Waxwings, Snow Buntings, and more?

But with low temps reaching as low as 45 below, how is this possible for a Southern person from South Carolina? The answer is the annual Sax-Zim Bog Winter Birding Festival, held every February in tiny Meadowlands, Minnesota, about 45 miles Northwest of Duluth.

So my friend Richard Hayes and I talked about this trip for three years. Richard has lived in Ohio and Colorado, and was reluctant to revisit very cold temps again. But I am nuts and like to test myself in extreme conditions, so we investigated how we could take this journey without the consequence of death or dismemberment. It turns out the friendly folks of Meadowland have made it easy: you travel the northlands in either a school bus or a chartered coach, you have expert local guides, and you are never exposed to extremes of wind and cold for very long.

So with my LL Bean Baxter State Parka and Bean Pac-boots, both rated to -45, we made ready for the trip. With some time on the first day Richard and I visited Duluth's Canal Park, right downtown for gulls and ducks, then took a quick trip over to the Duluth Grain elevators hoping for Gyrfalcon recently reported there. Fortune smiled as we ran into a small group led by Sax-Zim guide John Richardson, who pointed out the Gyr as he made sallies toward a large flock of Rock Pigeons. A life bird for both of us!

Common Goldeneye at Duluth's Canal Park. One of the few waterfowl who can survive in the extreme cold.

We stayed in Grand Rapids, Minnesota: childhood home of Judy Garland and near the headwaters of the Mississippi. We decided to take the pre-festival bog trip, repeating the same route the next day. The bog itself is a large rectangle of Black Spruce-Tamarack wetlands, so wet and rough that it was no good for foresting or farming by the hardy Finnish immigrants who settled this area. It represents the most southerly edge of the great northern forest, "le gran bois du nord", that covers much of Canada in the eastern provinces. It is so wild that it harbors a long-established population of Timber Wolves and has year-round Moose. Our first trip through the bog yielded a glimpse of Snow Bunting along the railroad tracks, and the reliable Boreal Chickadee at the Admiral Road feeders, placed along the road in remote woods to attract the normally shy birds.

Seed tray at Ely: from left, Common Redpoll, lighter Hoary Redpoll, Female Pine Grosbeak, C. Redpoll.

We got great looks and photos there, along with Gray Jay and Black-capped Chickadee. Along the way we visited feeders at the Visitor's Center and private feeders by friendly and gracious folks like Mary Lou Ysen-Freyholtz, who maintains dozens of feeders in her yard. There we saw Common Redpolls and Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. But the #1 target of our trip, the elusive Great Gray Owl, eluded us the first day. On our second trip around the bog the next day, however, we finally got distant looks at the owl, bigger than a Great Horned in appearance but surprisingly hard to see as he sat mid-range in the trees. We also picked out a few Hoary Redpolls among the hundreds of Commons at the feeders.

Our Great Gray Owl in the snow, coming in for a landing showing his enormous squared-off wing.

Our third day we took the Lake County trip to towns even further north along the great Mesabi Iron Range, the largest iron deposit in the 48 states. In Ely, we looked for and found Bohemian Waxwings in the little mining town, and as snow began to fall we spotted a Snowshoe Hare. Our final trip the next day took us back to the docks and grain elevators, where we found a reliable Snowy Owl at the FedEx terminal in Superior, Wisconsin.

So five life birds for me and at least 15 for Richard, temps ranging from 26 to -26, and a beautiful snowfall the last day. And I never felt uncomfortably cold!

Perhaps the most magic moment of the trip occurred on the last evening as I drove along the isolated country road from meadowlands to Grand Rapids. Snow was falling hard and the road was white when Richard yelled "Stop! Stop! Stop!" So I did, leaving us in the middle of a snow-covered road. There in the dusk, right beside the road, was the Great Gray Owl, the closest look we had. We carefully approached and took a few photos. Terrific stuff!

So if you want a comfortable, and safe way to see the birds of the very far north and get to know a lot of "Minnesota nice" people: Go to **www.saxzim.org.**

A Special Time with Warblers in Blowing Rock/Continued

All birders visiting the southern Blue Ridge Mountains in spring quickly find themselves immersed in the wonderful world of wood warblers. Being true to this, our program theme was wood warblers, as highlighted by our guest speakers, Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle, noted authors of The Warbler Guide and the associated Warbler Guide App. Their evening presentations, after a delicious dinner at the Inn, were excellent and focused on enhanced identification skills using their special brand of visual and audio techniques. To the delight of participants, Tom and Scott also joined us in the field, providing “hands-on” lessons in wood warbler identification.

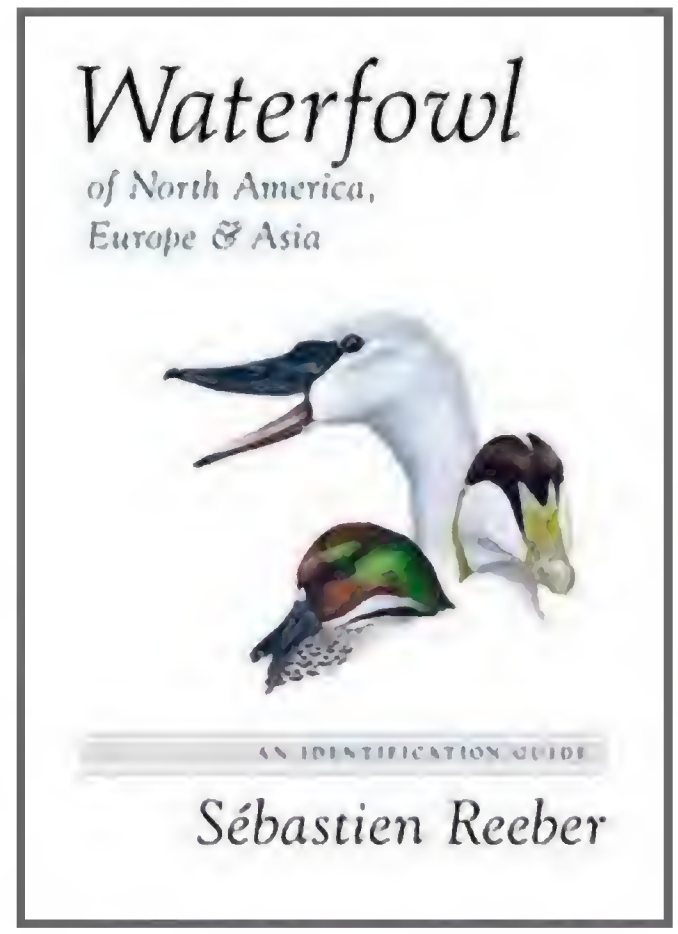
Birds in the field did not disappoint, with field trip participants tallying 142 total species, including an impressive 30 species of wood warblers. Trips were led by skilled volunteer experts to such iconic locations as Grandfather Mountain and Linville Gorge as well as other birding “hotspots” including Rich Mountain, Elk Knob, Valle Crucis Community Park among others. Our outings were further enhanced by specially designed wood warbler workshops and trips developed to engage new birders, providing birding skills and trips led by some of our young birders. Our Friday evening “owl prowls” received much interest though windy conditions, unfortunately, dampened their success. Maybe next time!

Some of our weekend highlights included a “derby” of Kentucky Warblers, a close encounter with Golden-winged Warblers and Swainson’s Warblers as well as such favorites as Blue-winged Warblers, the seasonally scarce Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warblers, Bay-breasted Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Canada Warblers and many others. The increasingly scarce Cerulean Warbler proved to be difficult to find, although some lucky folks were treated to decent views. Aside from the exciting mix of wood warblers, reported highlights also included Ruffed Grouse, calling Black-billed Cuckoos, Peregrine Falcons, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Bobolinks, just to name a few.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this meeting a success and special thanks to our field trip leaders and guest speakers Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle. On behalf of the entire executive committee, we thank all CBC members for their participation and support and we hope to see you again soon at an upcoming meeting.

Irvin Pitts

Birder's Book Review—Steve Shultz



Waterfowl of North America, Europe & Asia
Sébastien Reeber
ISBN 978-0-691-16266-9, 656 pages, hardcover
2016, Princeton University Press, $45.00

Field guides provide birders with a (usually) portable, all-in-one method of identifying birds during outings, standing at the window watching the bird feeder, or while humming along the interstate (but please, not if you are the driver!) But most folks who are bitten by the birding bug end up wanting more. And the very nature of field guides means that limited space can be given to text, thus rendering more than a broad overview out of scope.

Enter books designed to take a "deep dive" into bird identification, plumage characteristics, taxonomy, range, habitats, and habits. Most volumes focus on specific families of birds, and for those interested in swans, ducks, and geese, the newly published *Waterfowl of North America, Europe & Asia* ends the wait for a comprehensive look at the waterfowl of North America and Eurasia. Offering more than 920 excellent drawings and over 650 photographs, the illustrative value alone is worth the cost of admission. Want to see examples of how much yellow can be found on the bill of a Tundra Swan versus a Bewick's Swan? Then this offering is for you!

Covering 84 species and, most interestingly 100+ hybrids, 72 plates precede over 500 pages of text and photographs. The discussion of each species includes taxonomy, identification (in all plumages), geographic variation, measurements and size, voice, molt, hybridization, habitat and life-cycle, range and population, and presence in captivity.

The book approaches waterfowl taxonomy from a European perspective, so some birds considered by the AOU/ABA to be subspecies are handled as full species in the book. Examples include Mexican Duck, Eurasian Teal, and the "white-winged" scoters, which are represented by three species. I find this approach helpful as it identifies potential future AOU splits and draws attention to field-separable forms. A discussion of taxonomy precedes each species account, further delving into familial relationships and potential splits and lumps.

Discussions on hybridization and presence in captivity are especially interesting. Birders who find potentially out-of-range vagrants often need to exclude hybrids and especially consider the likelihood of the bird being an escapee from captivity versus arriving via natural occurrence. For example, knowing that Tufted Duck breeds easily in captivity, is available inexpensively to fanciers, and is common in captivity, while Smew are considerably more difficult to breed and thus quite a bit more expensive (and rare outside of major collections) may help guide discussion on the provenance of a particular report.

Other than its hefty weight, I see little to stop birders from adding this volume to their collection as a worthwhile inclusion. (And it's never too early to think about winter holiday shopping!)

Beginning 8/20 @ 2pm. Register Online
At www.carolinabirdcub.org

CBC Beaufort, SC Registration Form

Name(s)_____

Address_____ **City**_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Day Phone (_____) _____-_____ **Evening Phone (_____) _____-_____**

Email_____

Meeting Registration (Member) ____x $25 = $____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) ____x $30 = $____

Buffet Dinner ____x $31 = $____

Field Trip Sign-up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All-day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the Boxes to the right. Meeting registration at the door costs $35.

Total Enclosed = $_____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature_____ Date_____ Signature_____ Date_____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send it to: CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Before sending in this form, check the website at www.carolinabirdclub.org to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled or cancelled.

Cancellations for the meeting will be refunded in received by Friday, Sept. 16, 2016. Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens. Register online for the best availability of field trips.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org. If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

If you registered for the buffet and elect the vegetarian option, check here: ____ # persons _____

Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2016 - Beaufort, SC

Winter 2017 - Nags Head, NC

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pittsjam@windstream.net

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The ***CBC Newsletter*** is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. **Current dues are**: Individual & non-profit, $25; Family, $30; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, $30; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

Membership dues of $25 include $4 for a subscription to ***CBC Newsletter*** and $5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. **Cost for CBC bird checklists**, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00.

Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2016.

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Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,

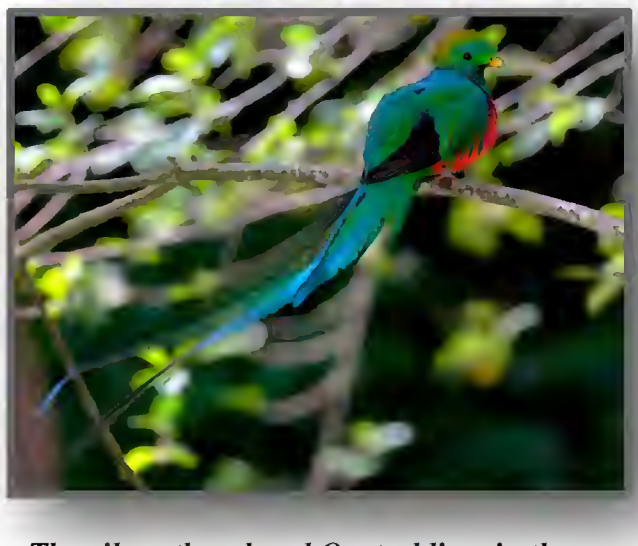
Volume 62 October 2016 Number 5

I'd like to take a few moments to highlight one of Carolina Bird Club's mission statements: To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience. Like many of you, I enjoy the meditative values of a quiet stroll through the woods; that oneness with nature. Yet it must be said, that one of the truer joys in birding is found through sharing of experiences and the thrill of discovery among friends.

Over the years, I've been intrigued how birders, beginning or advanced, develop and hone their own personal set of skills, or their "niche" in birding, and how they contribute to our knowledge of birds through their personal experiences and perspective. We learn so much about birds through our relationships with fellow birders. Birding and people go hand in hand.

One of the goals of the Carolina Bird Club is to create opportunities for birding through fellowship, at our seasonal meetings or during bonus trips. As you get out this fall to enjoy migration, try to take time to also meet a new fellow birder. Birding creates great camaraderie and develops wonderful learning opportunities, for new and experienced birders alike. Equally important, this fellowship promotes the activity we love for others to enjoy. I hope to see you soon! **Irvin**

Costa Rica Bonus Trip: Feb 18-27, 2017



The vibrantly colored Quetzal lives in the mountainous, tropical forests of Central America.

This CBC bonus birding trip will take in some of the very best areas that Costa Rica has to offer. We will start out in the lush middle elevations on the Caribbean slope before descending to the diverse Caribbean lowlands for a three-night stay in the lovely La Quinta Country Inn. Here we will take in several key birding areas including La Selva OTS, La Virgen del Socorro, a feeding station new Guapiles and the Old Butterfly garden. After the lowlands we will ascend to the middle elevations of the Caribbean slope near Tapanti National Park; one of the most beautiful areas in all of Costa Rica. And our final destination will take us to the highlands of Savegre, home to what many consider the most beautiful bird in the New World, the Resplendent Quetzal.

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- Birding and Pokemon

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), October 2016, Volume 62, Number 5. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Costa Rica Bonus Trip: Feb 18-27, 2017 — Sherry Lane

We will visit hummingbird and banana feeders throughout the trip allowing for up close and personal study of hummingbirds, tanagers, finches and much more. Professional bird guide Steven Easley will be our local guide for our trip, a highly respected authority on Costa Rican birds and other wildlife. We expect to see over 250 bird species with a good representation of Costa Rica's hummingbirds, toucans, motmots, trogons, tanagers, oropendolas and much more. This bonus trip is packed with excellent birding, comfortable lodging, and excellent food so join us as we explore the many wonders of Costa Rica

Itinerary brief:
Feb 18: (Sat) Arrive to San Jose Costa Rica (SJO), picked up at airport for short ride to Hotel Robledal for 1 NT
Feb 19: AM visit to La Paz Waterfall Garden, afternoon locally. 3 NTS at La Quinta Country Inn
Feb 20: Full day of birding at the best site in the Caribbean lowlands; La Selva OTS. 2nd NT at La Quinta
Feb 21: AM at La Virgen del Socorro, afternoon locally near La Selva. 3rd NT at La Quinta
Feb 22: AM at Cope's feeders and Old Butterfly Garden, continue to Hotel Rio Perlas for 2 NTS
Feb 23: Full day in the middle elevations of Tapanti NP and vicinity. 2nd NT at Hotel Rio Perlas
Feb 24: AM at Rio Macho and Ujarras, afternoon transfer to Savegre Mountain Lodge for 2 NTS
Feb 25: Full day of highland birding in the beautiful Savegre Valley. 2nd NT at Savegre Mountain Lodge
Feb 26: AM in Paramo and Tolomuco Lodge, afternoon transfer back to San Jose. Hotel Robledal for final NT
Feb 27: (Mon) Take Hotel Robledal shuttle to airport in time for Int'l departures

Group size and pricing: 7 to 9 participants (Limited to 9 participants.)
Price per person double occupancy based on 7 participants: $2,380
Price per person double occupancy based on 9 participants: $2,100
Single supplement: $490
$1,000 deposit by 10/1, balance by 12/1
A minimum of 7 participants is needed to run this trip. In the event that this minimum is not met by 12/1/16, the trip will be cancelled and all fees returned. Cancellation prior to 12/1/16 allows for a full refund. Refunds cannot be processed for cancellations after 12/1/16 unless a replacement can be found to take your slot.

What is included in the price:
All accommodations from Feb 18 till Feb 27. All meals from breakfast Feb 19 through breakfast Feb 27. Fulltime local guide Steven Easley from Feb 19 AM till Feb 26 PM. Transportation by comfortable Toyota Coaster which has seats for 16+ passengers. We will have a safe and dedicated driver with us throughout our trip. All activities and park entrance fees. 4x4 truck ride Savegre. Airport pickup and drop-offs.

What is NOT included in the price:
Airfare to and from San Jose, Costa Rica and travel insurance
Tips to local guide, driver, hotel staff, waiters, etc.
Any items of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, internet service etc.
Sodas or alcoholic beverages that are not provided as included in the meals
Airport Exit Tax of $29 USD per person (check your flight ticket as it is often included)

Level of activity to expect: Costa Rica is a mountainous country so expect some trails to be steeper in parts - these will be taken slowly, with frequent stops to bird and rest. The walking effort is mostly easy, but can be moderate at times due to the terrain and/or altitude at a few spots. At Savegre, we will be birding at elevations over 7,000 ft above sea level with a couple of hours at a higher elevation, in the paramo zone, of around 11,000.

About the Trip Leaders:
Sherry Lane lives in Wilmington NC with her husband and 2 sons. She has led birding field trips for Cape Fear Audubon. She recently returned from a family/friends birding trip which she organized and led to Costa Rica. She has been on birding trips to Panama, Colombia and Brazil. She works as a Physician Assistant, but her passion is tropical birding.
Steven Easley lives in Costa Rica near Turrialba with his wife Magdalena. Steven is a very accomplished nature photographer, specializing in birds. His wealth of knowledge on all things natural will be evident from day one whether it is butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, leafhoppers, reptiles or amphibians. Steven has been guiding in Costa Rica for the past 13 years. He is a bird guide who is serious about birding but also wants everyone to have a good time in the process.

Interested Birders:
Contact Sherry Lane for a detailed itinerary and registration information. **slane360@yahoo.com**

CBC Winter Meeting - Nags Head, NC January 27-28 2017

CBCs 80th Anniversary Begins Here

By Christine Stoughton-Root

The view from our hotel, Ramada Inn Plaza Nags Head, 1710 South Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills.

Our winter meeting, January 27-28, 2017, will make a return to Nags Head on the Outer Banks. Cold weather is what brings in all those wonderful winter birds that make this trip worthwhile. In the past the Outer Banks netted 186 species, included 23 ducks, 18 shorebirds, 15 sparrows, 7 warblers, and 6 birds from the rail family. There's always a chance for rare birds like Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Common Redpoll and Ash-throated Flycatcher.

A new location for this year's roost is the oceanfront Ramada Inn Plaza Nags Head. Located at 1701 S Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills. All rooms provide a microwave, refrigerator, and WIFI. Also included is a hot breakfast buffet starting at 5:30. The cost is $70 for ocean view rooms and $60 for street side, plus tax. This rate applies to several days before and after the meeting. For reservations, call 252-441-2151. Be sure to mention the Carolina Bird Club to get this rate. ***/Continued P. 4***

CBC Winter Meeting, January 27-28 2017

Follow the swans to Mattamuskeet

Our field trips will cover all the known numerous hot spots in this area. These include three National Wildlife Refuges (Alligator River, Mattamuskeet, and Pea Island) as well as Bodie Island, Oregon Inlet, Cape Hatteras Point, Roanoke Island, Palmetto Peartree Preserve, and more. At Pea Island we have special permission to offer trips to South Pond, which is off-limits except on guided tours.

We also have a pelagic trip led by Brian Patterson on the docket. Some of the birds seen on the past winter CBC meeting pelagic include Red Phalarope, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Atlantic Puffin, Great Skua, Razor-bill, Dovekie, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake and Common Murre.

For those who might need a break from the cold, workshops in the planning this year include eBird, Shore-bird ID, Waterfowl ID, Photography by our guest speaker and Beginner's Birding.

All Social events will be held at the Ramada. Friday night's program starts with a social hour that includes a cash bar. Program to be announced. Saturday evening starts with a dinner buffet that includes a cash bar. Our feature presentation is by Keith Kennedy, known for his display currently in the Smithsonian Natural His-tory Museum; Animal Antics, Best of the Best.

The buffet cost is $28 which will offer a vegetarian option.

Make Birders Count: Buy Your Duck Stamp Through the ABA The American Birding Association has made it easy to buy a Duck Stamp. Birders use refug-es too. Buying a Duck Stamp through the ABA shows your support—as a birder—for habitat and bird conservation.

"Last year the ABA sold more than $17,000 worth of Duck Stamps, money that goes directly into the coffers of those who seek to make NWRs better places for wildlife. And we're doing it again in 2016." **ABA**

CBC Winter Meeting, Nags Head, NC

Bodie Island Lighthouse

For non-birding spouses, there are many interesting places to visit. Aside from the beautiful beach, the Wright Brothers National Memorial in nearby Kill Devil Hills, and historic Manteo, with the Elizabethan Gardens, are just a short drive away. Three lighthouses Currituck Beach, Bodie Island, and Cape Hatteras, are less than an hour away, and while all are closed to climbing in the winter, you can still wander the grounds and gaze up in wonder at these sentinels of the sea. Manteo also features a reproduction of the lesser-known Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse.

The next Newsletter will provide information on the meeting, including trip descriptions, times, and registration information. Winter on the Outer Banks is always special.

Bring warm clothes, a sense of adventure, your life list, and make your reservations now.

The Carolina Young Birders Club is a club for any young person aged 8-19 who has an interest in birds and lives in the Carolinas. It's free to join- all that we ask is to stay in contact with us and participate!

We have begun field trips and events for Young Birders throughout the Carolinas Region. We are eager to add new members. Check out how much fun we have in the Photos and Blog sections!

If you are interested in joining the club, use the Contact Us box below. Currently if you are a young birder or know a young birder in the Carolinas, please e-mail at mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org.

Also, if parents or relatives are interested in helping with the club they can become adult facilitators aiding with the logistics of the club.

Check out our Events and Field Trips Page for upcoming trips at carolinabirdclub.org

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CAROLINA BIRD CLUB RESEARCH GRANTS

The CBC provides grants to support research, education and conservation of birds of the Carolinas and their habitats. Grant applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. The CBC Grants Committee meets quarterly to review applications. **Details at carolinabirdclub.org**

CBC Bonus Trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and Nags Head, December17-18, 2016—Steve Shultz

The Carolina Bird Club is offering a chance to bird two of the more interesting sites along the mid- Atlantic coast, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT) and the northern Outer Banks of North Caro- lina.

The CBBT complex's four manmade rocky islands act as a magnet for sea ducks, gulls, and other birds. With luck we should be able to leisurely study each of America's three scoter species (birds more often than not seen in distant, fast-moving lines), enjoy the spec- tacularly plumaged male Long-tailed Duck, search for shorebirds (including Purple Sandpiper) on the rocks, compare the various plumages of Great and Double- crested Cormorants, and hope for a rarity or two like Common Eider, Common Goldeneye, King Eider, or one of the uncommon gulls.

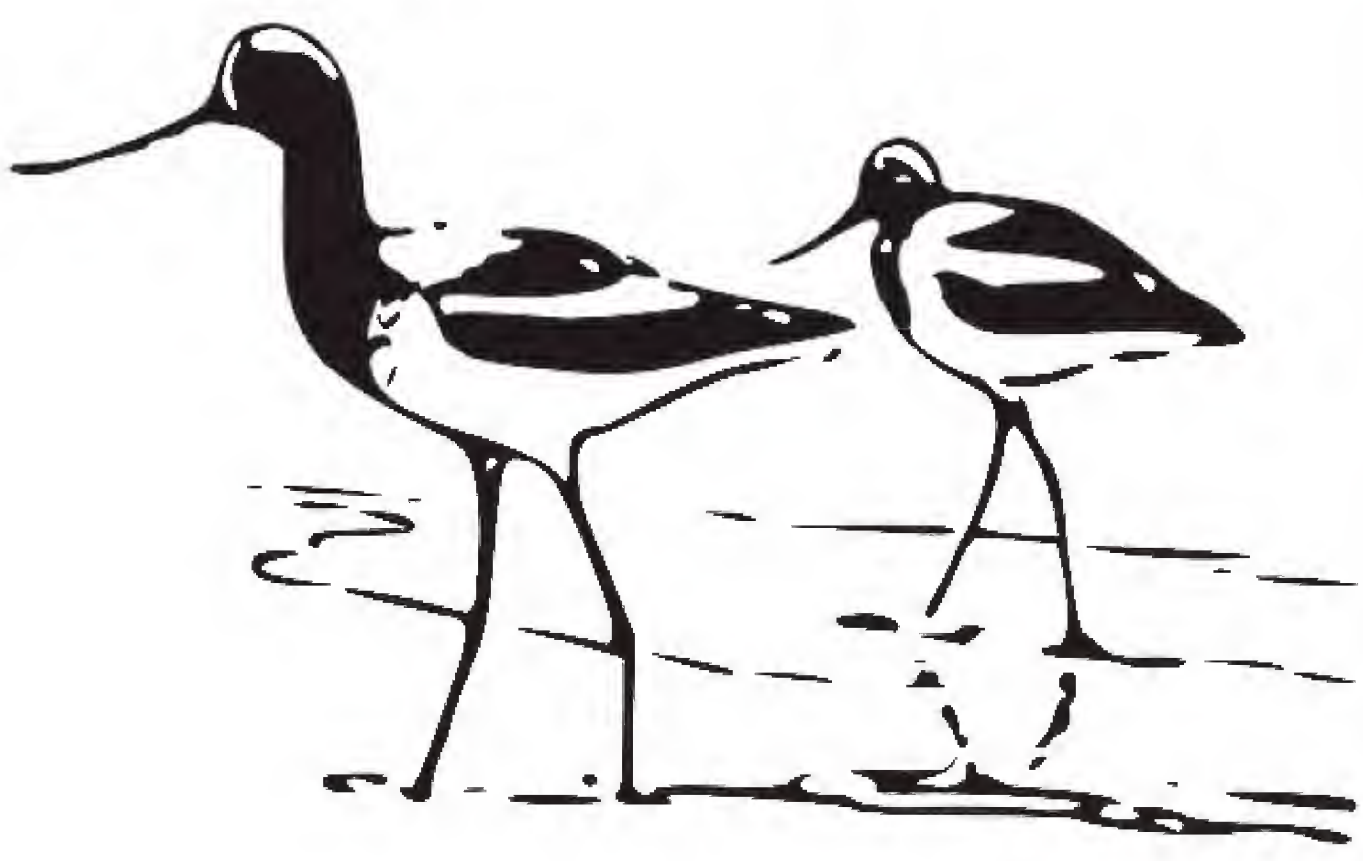
After spending the morning birding the islands we will head south through Virginia Beach, stopping for lunch and birds, before continuing to Nags Head, NC. Sunday morning will be devoted to visiting Bodie Is- land, Pea Island, and Alligator River NWRs in search of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, passerines, and whatever else we can find.

Dates: Satur day/Sunday, December 17-18, 2016
Cost: $50
Limit: 13 participants
Logistics: The trip will begin at 7:15 a.m. Saturday at the south toll terminal at the CBBT in Virginia Beach, VA. The $50 registration fee covers the police escort on the CBBT and guided birding throughout the weekend. Not included are lodging, meals, tolls, or fuel expenses. Participants will likely wish to spend Friday night in Virginia Beach.
Reservations should also be made for Saturday night in Nags Head, NC.

Detailed, additional information will be provided upon registration.

Please note that the CBBT authorities require picture identification upon arrival and perform background checks on all birding program visitors prior to arrival. For this reason, the registration form requests driver's license (or equivalent state issued identification card) information including license number and expiration date. The CBC only collects this information to for- ward to the CBBT and will not retain or share the in- formation with any other entity. If you prefer not to provide this information, we regret that we cannot accommodate you on this bonus trip.

To Sign Up: E-mail Steve Shultz for a registration form (sshultz@nc.rr.com) or if you have questions. You can also call 919-608-2069. The form and trip fee must be sent to the CBC HQ Secretary no later than 4 weeks prior to the trip in order to provide the Bridge Tunnel Authority with a listing of participants. A minimum of 10 participants is required to run the trip. Due to security procedures dictated by the CBBT Authority, no roster changes can be made af- ter November 17, therefore the last day to cancel with refund is November 16.



The CBBT, and Outer Banks are can be great places to bird! If you've never been, it is a rewarding experience. Even if the birding is slow (which is usually not the case) the possibility of seals, seagoing ships, lighthouses, wild ponies, and spectacular scenery make the trip worthwhile.

Participation is limited to CBC members (but you can join at the same time as you register for the trip!)

Please let Steve know of any questions and look forward to seeing you there!

CBC Members Birding in Biodiverse Panama — Steve Shultz

CBC birders in Panama, where they bush-wacked their way into the heavy tropical rainforest taking care not to grab hold of any limb or vine that might be poisonous.

Lucky members of the CBC gathered in Panama City, Panama this past January for a week of birding the country's tropical rainforest, dry Pacific slope, uplands, lowlands, and everything in between.

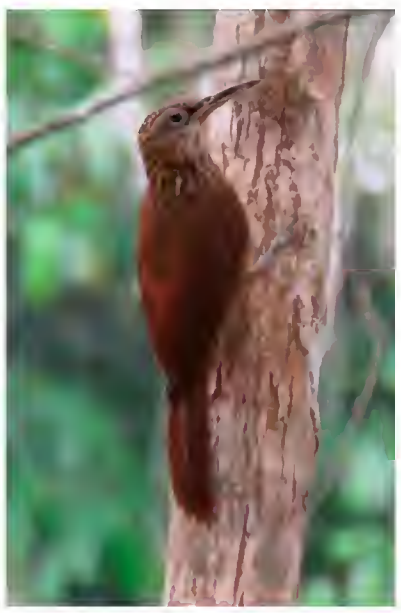
Many folks, upon hearing "Panama" automatically think "Canal". And while most every schoolchild knows how to locate Panama on a globe, many birders don't think of the narrow isthmus as one of the prime birding spots in southern Central America. But they should!

Boasting a list of 978 species and 12 endemics, Panama's modern infrastructure, US dollar currency, and affordable prices makes this an easy place to become acquainted with the tropics, and an excellent place to bird. All one needs is a place to stay, transport, and a bit of local knowledge.

Our trip was based in three locations, the Radisson Summit hotel and golf resort, near the Panama Canal in the former Canal Zone; the jewel of Panama's central foothills, El Valle de Anton; and finally the Melia Panama Canal Resort on the Atlantic coast at Colon.

The lodging, far from rustic, provided comfortable opportunities to unwind after an exciting day in the field, enjoy an adult beverage, or take a dip in the pool. And in fact the pool would provide a number of interesting bird sightings including roosting Bat Falcon and soaring Peregrine Falcon!

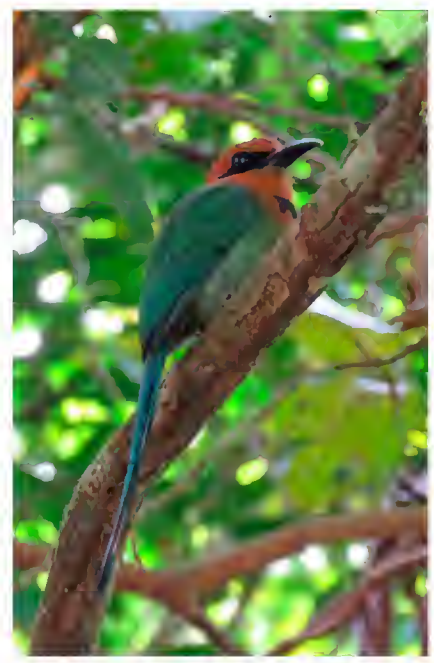
And while I have at least passing familiarity with many of our tropical avian friends, in order to ensure the best experience possible, it made sense to enlist the services of a professional, local guide. And here we hit the jackpot. With the highest total tick count for Panama, including two first country records, Kilo Campos provided unmatched in-the-field experience and seemed to know just how to get everyone on the bird, even if the subject was hiding behind twenty-seven individual leaves.



Cocoa Woodcreeper
Photographer Merrill Lester

Even before the trip "officially" started, folks at the Radisson found great birds on the grounds including Whooping Motmot, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Southern Lapwing, Wattled Jacana, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and more tanagers than one could count.

Our trip kicked off in stellar fashion with a Tuesday morning visit to famous Pipeline Road and the associated Ammo Dump Ponds. Lifers, year birds, and just plain spectacular sightings came fast and furious with highlights at Ammo Dump including Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Keel-billed Toucan, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, Mourning Warbler, Masked Tityra, and Red-lored Parrot. Pipeline Road, a quiet, dirt track leading into the jungle above the Canal, added many more favorites including Grey-headed Tanager, Blue Dacnis, Black-tailed and Gartered Trogons, Lesser Kiskadee, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Checker-throated Antwren, Broad-billed Motmot, and the stunning Purple-crowned Fairy.



Broad-Billed Motmot
Photographer
Merrill Lester

After lunch at a local café near the Miraflores Locks, we returned to Summit Ponds for a look at the usually-present Boat-billed Herons and added tasty bits like Amazon Kingfisher, Forest Elaenia, and two fairly sizeable American Crocodiles.

/Continued 8

As the sun completed its daily journey across the southern sky, and the heat of the day dissipated, bird activity began anew. A walk along the edges of the hotel's golf course provided new birds like Snowy-bellied Hummingbird and a chance to see one of the region's most endearing mammals, the Capybara. As dusk fell, a whirlwind of birds climbed the hillside where we stood, and in singles and twos and threes, winged jewels stopped briefly before moving off to roosting spots. High above, pairs of raucous Amazon parrots sailed toward cozy dens.

Wednesday morning found us bumping along Pipeline Road on our way to the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center's canopy tower. Those looking out the windshield at the right moment caught sight of a loping Northern Tamandua (a.k.a an anteater), but all enjoyed sunrise from the top of a 105' tower built to allow birders the chance to see 'above the treetops' and spot birds that make their living in the upper canopy.

Panama's Pipeline Road, Ammo Dump Ponds and the Pan-American Highway among other stops provided interesting birds.

Collard Aracari
Photographer Jeri Smart

Highlights here included the lovely Blue Cotinga, Chestnut-mandibled Toucan, Collared Aracari, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Double-toothed Kite, Scaled Pigeon, Mealy Parrot, Band-rumped and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts, and Shining and Green Honeycreepers. Once the sunshine heated the upper canopy to a bit above our comfort level, we repaired to the shade of the Center's hummingbird feeder display and enjoyed the amazing airshow.

Dozens of hummers paid scant attention to the ogling humans as the birds fed just feet away from eager camera lenses. White-necked Jacobins dominated the airspace, but Violet-bellied and Blue-chested Hummingbirds, Crowned Woodnymph, Long-billed Hermit, and Black-throated Mango put on a good show as well. But the 'best' hummingbird, and for some one of the trip's top birds, rested serenely on a high branch.

Fasciated Antshrike (F)
Photographer Jeri Smart

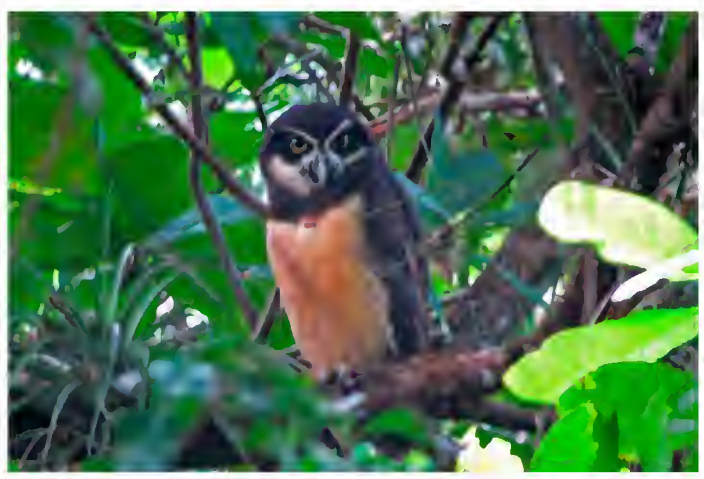
The male Rufous-crested Coquette drew people so quickly to one side of the raised deck that had we been on a ship at sea, we likely would have capsized! The feeder kiosk also allowed for great looks at Fasciated Antshrike, Spotted Antbird, and the dashing Moustached Antwren.

Late afternoon found us on the Pan-American Highway headed for El Valle de Anton. Along the way we stopped near the seaside resort of Gorgona to search the dry, Pacific thornscrub for birds, netting winged-things including Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Panama Flycatcher, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, and great looks at a tooting Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl.

El Valle, nested in the crater of a long-dormant volcano, would be our home for the next two nights. Surrounded by steep-sided mountains cloaked in mist, and bathed in a cool breeze, our highland escape almost immediately produced lifers when a White Hawk's brilliant ivory plumage drew the attention of birders lugging bags to rooms. Foliage on the hotel grounds hosted Rufous-capped Warbler, Green-crowned Brilliant, Lineated Woodpecker, Bay-headed Tanager and more.

After a pleasant night with the windows open, morning found us along a quiet road enjoying flocks of busily foraging birds including Dusky-faced, Silver-throated, Tawny-capped, and Flame-rumped Tanagers, Tawny-capped Euphonia, Paltry Tyrannulet, and an amazing number of Canada Warblers. **/Continued P. 9**

After lunch Kilo teased that he might have a surprise in store. Not sure what we were about to (hopefully) find, we drove to the outskirts of town and stopped in an area of beautifully landscaped vacation homes. Kilo knew one of the local caretakers, Anibal, and after introductions, we followed the pair to a shady copse of trees to stare at the scaly-barked end of a broken-off branch. Except that this branch had feet. Yep, a roosting Common Potoo! After enjoying scope views of this strange creature, we bushwacked into the forest, following the trace of a bird that none of us could see or hear. Eventually the hand signal for "stop and be quiet" passed along the conga line of birders, and one by one, we quietly crept to the scope's eyepiece for a rare treat. Perched daintily on a middle distance limb sat a tiny bird with an impossibly large head and bill… the elusive Tody Motmot! But even after the high five and rapid uploads to eBird, the adventure was not quite over. After more seemingly random wanderings through the thick forest, and taking care not to grab hold of any limb or vine that might be poisonous, we again passed the signal to stop and shush. No one spoiled the surprise as each person put eye to glass not knowing what would be seen. The beautiful Spectacled Owl elicited more than one "wow!" and many rolls of exposed film (although, of course, no one actually uses film anymore).



Spectacled Owl
Photographer Jeri Smart

Back on the quiet street, happy handfuls of gratuities in the way of dollar bills made their way into Anibal's pocket, an excellent example of the value to local residents of wildlife and the benefit to keeping habitat intact.

The next morning found us on the Cerro Gaital trail birding lush, upland forest. Our quarry, the brilliant Orange-bellied Trogon, not only posed nicely for photos, but actually flew closer for even more stunning views!

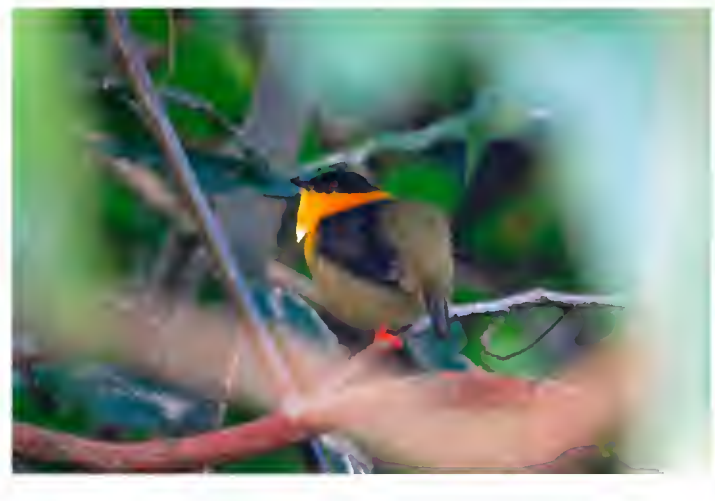
Orange-Bellied Trogon
Photographer Merrill Lester

Unfortunately, the White-ruffed Manakins nearby played coy, only giving the briefest of views. But while the manakins might have a cruel streak, an encounter with the strangely named Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant left us all pleased!

Leaving El Valle behind, we hoped to encounter a different subset of birds along the famous Achiote Road. The Melia Panama Canal Resort provided a fine base of operations for the next two days, with sloths in the parking lot trees, hundreds of yards of shoreline on Gatun Lake, and close proximity to birding sites.

Saturday's pre-dawn found us waiting to cross the Panama Canal on a swing bridge at Gatun. Once across the locks, a short drive brought us to a favored location along the road to the tiny village of Achiote. Short-billed Pigeons perched in treetops for long scope views, a pair of Spot-crowned Barbets put on a brilliant show, and Pied and White-necked Puffbirds plied their trades while dozens of other resident and wintering birds flitted through shrub and tree.

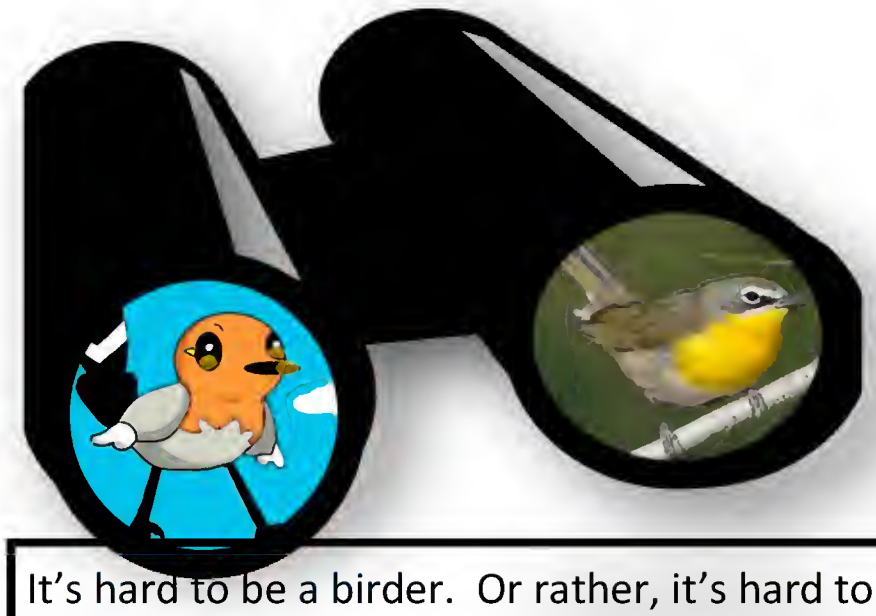
An afternoon trip to a quiet road near the hotel brought more tropical jewels within range of our optics, but also the frustration of hearing numerous Golden-collared Manakins that absolutely refused to be seen.



Golden-Collared Manakin
Photographer Jeri Smart

On the final morning of the trip, with just a few hours to bird before heading across the isthmus to the international airport, we made one last run at the manakins, and came away with a royal flush. Not only did the beautiful male Golden-collared Manakins find morning much more to their liking, posing in the bright sunshine for all to enjoy, we also lucked into finding my favorite bird of the week, a stunning male Red-capped Manakin.

The trip ended with 241 species of birds and several interesting mammals including Northern Tamandua, Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth, White-faced Capuchin, Mantled Howler Monkey, Lesser Capybara, and Central American Agouti.



Birds of a Feather: Birding and Pokemon

By Steve Shultz

It's hard to be a birder. Or rather, it's hard to explain to someone why I'm a birder. Whether it's at a cocktail party, describing hobbies and interests during the dreaded workplace "get to know you" exercise, or when responding to a roadside inquiry as to "what are you looking at", describing to a non-birder the allure of birdwatching can be challenging. Say to someone, "my hobbies are fishing and cigars" and little else needs to be said. Get a knowing nod and then maybe move into a discussion as to whether Cohibas will still retain their mystique once Cuba opens to commerce, or lament on how "there just aren't as many fish out there as there were in the good old days." But the response to "I'm a birder" is often puzzled silence. After all, do people really just roam around and look for little animals to add to their virtual creel?

But now I have an easy comparison to which most folks can immediately relate. I simply say that birding is like *Pokemon Go*, but replaces virtual pocket monsters with real feathered animals. (For folks not connected to the internet, or who have not ventured outside recently, *Pokemon Go* is a smartphone game app that became the summer of '16s hottest fad. Users travel to physical locations to "capture" virtual cartoon monsters that are displayed overlapped on the user's live video display through use of augmented reality.)

When Pokemon's latest craze swept across the world in mid-July, millions of folks discovered the excitement and sense of accomplishment of navigating to seemingly random locations to "capture" creature's to add to ones menagerie. That, in a nutshell, is birding; or at least my version of it. Drive to a place I've never been before, follow the directions on my smartphone, look across the field, and *bang*, I add a Say's Phoebe to my list. Or I might strike out on my own to discover what unknown birds may be lurking in forest or fen... a fieldtrip in birding parlance. Eerily similar to roaming the local park for cute pink and yellow monsters, except that my feathered friends actually exist, and I don't have to buy any power balls to secure my sighting. Although that pair of expensive German binoculars might seem rather lavish to the Pokemon user able to "power up" for a dollar or so.

So birders enjoy getting outside, visiting new places, adding sightings to our lists, and meeting people with similar interests. Pokemon users enjoy getting outside, visiting new places, adding creatures to their lists, and meeting people with similar interests. Finally! I can succinctly explain my free-time pursuits in a way that generates continued conversation and reduces the changes of obtaining a blank stare when trying to explain "birding". I just simply say that I'm playing *Pokemon Go*, but substituting birds for pocket monsters.

And will some of the millions of folks enjoying the great outdoors while playing the app discover that a real-world *Pokemon Go* exists? I hope so! For birding offers many of the same benefits of exercise, visits to new places, exploration of the natural world, the excitement of "capturing" a shiny new "sighting", and satisfying the itch to collect "the full set".

The next time you spot a pocket monster collector roaming your neighborhood, consider sharing the allure of birding... you might win a convert and make a new friend!

Welcome New CBC Members!

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St. Louis, MO

Marilyn & Lyle Burgmann
Simpsonville, SC

William & Margaret Dunson
Galax, VA

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter 2017 - Nags Head, NC
Spring 2017– Winston-Salem, NC

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.

www.carolinabirdclub.org

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Membership dues of $25 include $4 for a subscription to ***CBC Newsletter*** and $5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. **Cost for CBC bird checklists**, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00.

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CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

Volume 62 | December 2016 | Number 6

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

CBC Winter Meeting & 80th Anniversary Nags Head, NC January 27-28 2017

By Christine Stoughton-Root

Join us as we begin the celebration of the Carolina Bird Club's 80th year. Our winter meeting, January 27-28, 2017, will make a return to Nags Head on the Outer Banks, arguably the best time to bird the area. Cold weather is what brings in all those wonderful winter birds.

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CBC Spring Executive Committee Election

We will need candidates for President, Treasurer, Secretary,
a Western NC at large member, and both Eastern NC at large seats.
The incumbent Eastern NC Vice President Sherry Lane is eligible for election.
SC at Large Member Steve McInnis is also eligible for re-election.

Here is the list in more detail:

President to serve up to two one-year terms. The president nominee must be a present or recent past board member. Irvin Pitts is not eligible for re-election.

***Eastern* NC Vice President** for one three-year term. **Sherry Lane is an appointed incumbent so eligible for election.**

Treasurer for one-year term eligible for three terms. Incumbent Samir Gabriel is not eligible for another term.

Secretary for a one-year term up to three terms. Doris Ratchford is not eligible for another term.

Western NC Member at Large for a two-year term. Incumbent Karyl Gabriel is not eligible for another term.

Eastern NC Member at Large for a two year term eligible for two terms. Christine Stoughton-Root is not eligible for another term .

Eastern NC Member at Large for a two year term eligible for two terms. **Jeri Smart is eligible** for a second term but not seeking a second term.

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CBC Winter Meeting & 80th Anniversary
Nags Head, NC January 27-28 2017

By Christine Stoughton-Root

American Oystercatcher

Our last two meetings to the OBX netted 181 and 177 species. Species included 23 ducks, 18 shorebirds, 15 sparrows, eight warblers and six from the rail family. There's always a chance for rare birds like Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Common Redpoll and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Who will it be this year?

We will be headquartered at a new location: the refurbished Ramada Plaza, Nags Head Ocean Front, 1701 S Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills, NC. All rooms have microwave, refrigerator and WIFI, and include a hot breakfast starting at 5:30am. The cost is $70 for ocean view rooms and $60 for street side, plus tax. This price is also good for several days before and after the meeting.

For reservations, call 252-441-2151. Be sure to mention Carolina Bird Club to receive this rate.

Our field trips will cover the numerous hot spots in the area. These include three national wildlife refuges: Pea Island, Alligator River and Mattamuskeet. Two more inland spots will be Roanoke Island and Palmetto Peartree Preserve. We'll go to Bodie Island, Oregon Inlet, Pea Island and Hatteras Point. Brian Patteson will be repowering his boats this winter. So as of this time we are unable to offer the pelagic trips. If that changes we will offer registration for these trips at a later date.

The following workshops will be offered: Shorebird ID, Photography "Getting the most out of the camera you have," eBird and Beginners Birding.

Friday evening will start with a cash bar. Speaker for the evening is Nate Swick on "The Next 10: Predicting First Records in NC & SC. His new guidebook, *"ABA Field Guide to Birds of the Carolinas."* will be released in November and will be available for purchase and book signings.

Saturday evening starts with cash bar and dinner buffet. The buffet is $26 and will offer a vegetarian option. The guest speaker is Keith Kennedy. Keith is a recently retired entomologist who has been pursuing bird and insect photography for over 10 years. A number of his images have appeared in Audubon Magazine, Outside Magazine, North American Nature Photographers Association Impressions, Entomological Society of American calendar, Natural History magazine, BioScience, Natures Best Magazine, and the Raleigh News & Observer. One of his images was recently honored in a wildlife photography exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum. He and his wife Sharon, an avid birder, recently relocated to Raleigh from Wisconsin where they lived for 30 years.

Both our speakers will be leading field trips and workshops.

Outer Banks Meeting Field Trip Itinerary

Friday, January 27

Morning - Half Day

Trip 1 – Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR - 6:45am
Trip 2 – Pea Island NWR/North and South Ponds – 7:15am
Trip 3 – Pea Island NWR/Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet - 7:15am
Trip 4 - Pine Island Sanctuary and Points North – 7:00am
Trip 5 – Roanoke Island – 7:30am
Trip 6 – Ocean Watching – 7:30am
Trip 7 – Beginners Birding – 8:00am

Afternoon – Half Day

Trip 9 - Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR – 1:00pm
Trip 10 - Pea Island NWR/North and South Ponds – 1:00pm
Trip 11 - Pea Island NWR/Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet – 1:00pm
Trip 12 – Pine Island Sanctuary and Points North - 1:00pm
Trip 13 – Roanoke Island – 1:15pm
Trip 14 – Ocean Watch – 1:15pm
Trip 15 – Photography Workshop/Field – 1:00pm

All Day

Trip 17 – Mattamuskeet – 6:45am
Trip 18 – Hatteras Point, Hatteras Island & Pea Island – 6:45am
Trip 19 – Pocosin Lakes NWR – 7:00am

Saturday, January 28

Morning - Half Day

Trip 22 - Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR - 6:45am
Trip 23 - Pea Island NWR/North and South Ponds – 7:15am
Trip 24 - Pea Island NWR/Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet – 7:15am
Trip 25 - Pine Island Sanctuary and Points North – 7:00am
Trip 26 - Roanoke Island – 7:30am
Trip 27 - Beginners Birding – 7:30am
Trip 28 - Shorebird ID Workshop/Field – 7:15am

Afternoon – Half Day

Trip 30 - Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR – 1:00pm
Trip 31- Pea Island NWR/North and South Ponds – 1:00pm
Trip 32 - Pea Island NWR/Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet – 1:00pm
Trip 33 – Pine Island Sanctuary and Points North - 1:00pm
Trip 34 – Roanoke Island – 1:15pm
Trip 35 – Ocean Front – 1:15pm
Trip 36 – eBird Workshop/Field – 1:00pm

All Day

Trip 38 – Mattamuskeet – 6:45am
Trip 39 – Hatteras Point, Hatteras Island & Pea Island – 6:45am
Trip 40 – Pocosin Lakes NWR – 7:00am

There are many diversions in the area for non-birding spouses. Aside from the beautiful beach as far as you can see, the Wright Brothers National Memorial in nearby Kill Devil Hills and historic Manteo, with the Elizabethan Gardens, are just a short drive away. Three lighthouses, Currituck Beach, Bodie and Cape Hatteras, are less than an hour away. Manteo also has a reproduction of the lesser-known Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse.

Winter on the Outer Banks is always special. Bring warm clothes, a sense of humor and adventure. We hope to see you there.

Please note: South Pond on Pea Island is off-limits at all times. We will have access for this meeting, and only if you are on the specified trips. No one is allowed in that area at other times. Also, certain impoundments around Lake Mattamuskeet are off-limits and have signs posting such. We will have access to some of these areas, but only on designated trip.

/Continued P. 4

Outer Banks Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

HALF-DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trips - 1, 9, 22, & 30 - Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR. "P3" as the locals know it. We will look among the seven species of woodpeckers present for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. During our search we should see a good assortment of woodland and edge species including kinglets, warblers, nuthatches, and sparrows. Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl and Bald Eagle are real possibilities. Learn more about P3 by visiting http://www.conservationfund.org/projects/palmetto-peartree-preserve. After birding P3, the group will drive through Alligator River NWR searching primarily for raptors and sparrows, although many species will be possible, including waterfowl and shorebirds. This refuge may be the best place in the state to find Ash-throated Flycatcher. Rough-legged Hawks and a Swainson's Hawk have wintered here in the recent past. Black Bears, Bobcats and Red Wolves are all possible. Another possibility is Short-eared Owls over the fields just before dusk. You would need to stay later than the afternoon trips are scheduled.

Approximate Travel Time: 1:10

Facilities: There are lots of birds but few restrooms in this part of the world, but they can be found (Visitor's Center on Roanoke Island, service station at western end of Alligator River bridge, and porta-johns at entrance to Milltail Road in Alligator River NWR.)

Access: P3 walking on uneven surfaces. Alligator NWR partial driving routes and walking on occasional trails with potentially uneven surfaces.

Trips - 2, 10, 23, & 31 - Pea Island NWR, North and South Ponds. Drive down to the entrance area of South Pond. Park carefully along the roadside. If you are there in advance of the guide, wait by the road. We will scan flocks of common birds hoping for such species as Eurasian Wigeon, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, American Bittern and American White Pelican. In the grassy strips and in the shrub edges along the way, we should find sparrows and warblers. After leaving South Pond, we will visit nearby North Pond to continue our search. This area has seen quite a few rarities over the years, including Glaucous Gull, California Gull, Hudsonian Godwit, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Cave Swallow and Brewer's Blackbird, just to name a few. Anything is a possibility at Pea Island! We'll scope the ocean across from the Visitor's Center for sea birds. If time permits, we may stop by Oregon Inlet or Bodie Island on the trip back. A spotting scope comes in quite handy in these areas. Even in January, mosquito protection may be advisable. ***Remember: South Pond is off-limits except with the approved guide.***

Approximate Travel Time: 30min

Facilities: Restrooms at Pea Island Visitor Center

Access: Mostly improved trail**,** potentially uneven surfaces of grass and sand.

Trips - 3, 11, 24 & 32- Pea Island NWR, Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet. At the north end of Pea Island are the Oregon Inlet and the Bonner Bridge. We'll check the inlet out to the rock groin, looking for species that include Great Cormorant, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Purple Sandpiper, Piping Plover, Glaucous Gull, "Ipswich" Sparrow, Razorbill and many more. This is "hallowed ground" to birders and many rarities have shown up here over the years. On the north side of the bridge is the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, where we will scope the inlet for Long-tailed Duck and other diving ducks. Common Eiders and Brant have been seen here as well. We'll continue on to Bodie Lighthouse Pond where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the observation platform. Eurasian Wigeon and Cinnamon Teal have been seen here. The boardwalk that cuts through the marsh is good for rails and marsh wrens.

Approximate Travel Time: 25min

Facilities: Restrooms

Access: Bodie Island boardwalk/observation platform. Pea Island improved trails. Oregon Inlet walking on soft to hard packed sand.

Outer Banks Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

HALF-DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trips 4, 12, 25 & 33 - Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary and Points North. We will explore this former hunting mecca for waterfowl, shorebirds, marsh birds and raptors—Bald Eagle is a distinct possibility. Afterwards, we'll head north and bird around the Currituck Lighthouse and N.C. Center for Wildlife Education. A boardwalk will take us to the edge of Currituck Sound where we will scan for waders, shorebirds, terns and waterfowl. King Rails and other marsh birds are a possibility. The forest edge can be good for overwintering passerines as well. Time permitting; we may scan the nearby ocean for scoters, loons and grebes. If you have not ever birded this area of the Outer Banks, this field trip will provide an experience you will be able to use in your future trip.

Approximate Travel Time: 40min

Facilities: Restrooms

Access: Improved trails potentially uneven surfaces.

Trips - 5, 13, 26 & 34 - Roanoke Island. We'll begin at the north end of the island where we will search the woodland edges for winter species such as Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, Brown Creeper, White-throated Sparrow, and hope to turn up over-wintering warblers. Ovenbird, Northern Parula, Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers have all been seen in recent winters, as have Baltimore Oriole, Painted Bunting and Western Kingbird! Wintering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds should be present as well. After that, we will visit the Roanoke Marshes Game Lands in search of saltmarsh species such as Marsh Wren, Seaside Sparrow, and Clapper and Virginia Rails. The freshwater impoundment should hold a few shorebirds and waterfowl for us to view, along with Belted Kingfisher and a raptor or two. Then we will stop by the harbor in Wanchese Village at the south end of the island and scan the surrounding sound and marina for gulls, loons, grebes, and diving ducks. In the past Two Glaucous Gulls were spotted. Wear comfortable shoes because you are going to cover a lot of ground on this field trip.

Approximate Travel Time: 25min

Facilities: Restrooms

Access: Sidewalks and trail with potentially uneven surface

Trips - 6, 14 & 35 - Nags Head Ocean Watch. A scope is essential for this trip to scan the Atlantic for the winter birds that feast on the bounty of the ocean. If you don't have a scope, there should be plenty in the group. Your leader will select some premium locations from which to watch the action, including Jennette's Pier. Loons, grebes, scoters and other sea ducks, gulls, gannets are likely.
A fee of $2.00 is payable at the time of arrival to walk out onto Jannette's Pier.

Approximate Travel Time: 15min
Facilities: Restrooms
Access: Beach/Boardwalk Pier

Trips- 7 & 27- Beginning Birders- Workshop/Field. The first half of the workshop is held at the Ramada followed by a field trip. This is designed for those new to birding, but all levels of birders are welcomed. Birding techniques will be discussed including how to view a bird, what type of diagnostic marks to look for, how to "pish", the importance of habitat, how to act, and even what to wear. The leader will explain what to look for in binoculars, scopes, field guides and answer any questions you may have.

Approximate Travel Time: Starts at Ramada
Facilities: Restrooms and heat
Access: Field portion to be determined

/Continued P. 6

Outer Banks Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

HALF-DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trip 15 – Bird Photography Workshop/Field. "*Getting the most out of the camera you already own."* Provided by guest speaker Keith Kennedy a brief classroom discussion on the following topics:

Equipment options for beginning bird photographers especially lens selection; composition/cropping; sun angle; exposure consideration; importance of background; backing up—saving your images.

After the classroom session and weather permitting, we will take a small group of people to a nearby location for an in-the-field bird photography experience with hands-on instruction.

Approximate Travel Time: 5 min. Field Trip-To be determined
Facilities: Heat and restrooms
Access: Field portion to be determined, will be reasonable

Trip 28-Shorebird ID Workshop/Field.

Workshop – The shorebird workshop will focus on key characteristics, such as overall profiles, foraging behaviors, and habitat, which can aid birders on all levels to quickly and confidently identify a species. We will review all shorebird families, but our primary focus will be Charadriidae (plovers) and Scolopacidae (sandpipers). If you're interested in refining your "peep" identification skills, then please join me in this discussion-based workshop.

Field Trip – Bodie Island Lighthouse and the north end of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.
These barrier island locations can offer ideal foraging habitats for many resident and migratory shorebird species. Bodie Island Lighthouse is the most northern site on Cape Hatteras National Seashore and offers an observation platform, which overlooks a freshwater marshland. Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, a refuge managed by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, provides an excellent shorebird foraging habitat on the northern end. Both sites provide a great opportunity to focus on silhouette and foraging behavior identification. Target species at both locations will be American Avocet, Black-bellied Plover, yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and Purple Sandpiper! Other shorebirds we may observe include Willet, Dunlin, Wilson's Snipe, Sanderling, dowitcher, and Whimbrel.

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes (Bodie Island), 45 minutes (Pea Island)
Facilities: Restrooms
Access conditions: This trip will involve moderate walking, boardwalk/observation platform at Bodie Island Lighthouse; trail with potentially uneven surface at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Trip 36 eBird-Workshop/Field . The first half of this workshop will be held within the Ramada Inn. This workshop will explain the many features, functions, and accessibility of this free, on-line checklist program. eBird has revolutionized the way the birding community reports and access information about birds and where to find birds. Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society launched eBird in 2002. You will still need to bring your outer gear as you will go outdoors the second half and apply your new skills.

Approximate Travel Time: 5min
Facilities: Heat and restrooms
Access: Field portion to be determined.

Trip - 17 & 38 - Mattamuskeet NWR. A birder's paradise, Mattamuskeet can be incredible. One of the best spots in the state for Golden Eagle, we will bird the Lake Landing area for Tundra Swans and other waterfowl, shorebirds and waders, sorting through the more common species and hoping for something rare, such as Cackling Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, or "Common" Teal. In recent winters American White Pelicans have been seen here. There is a good chance we will be allowed access to some of the off-limit areas. We will also bird along the causeway, famous for its overwintering passerines. In just the past few winters the causeway has hosted at least 13 species of warblers, including Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, Yellow and Nashville. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Baltimore Orioles are to be expected; in the past we have had Ash-throated Flycatcher and Bell's Vireo. A Black-headed Gull is present most years, too, usually seen near one of the culverts that pass under Hwy. 94. Side trips on the way back to the coast may include Stumpy Point Bay and Alligator River NWR.

Approximate Travel Time: 1:30

Facilities: Restrooms

Access: Driving and walking on potentially uneven surfaces.

Outer Banks Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

FULL DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trips – 18 & 39 - Hatteras Point, Hatteras Island, Pea Island. The guide will rendezvous with the CBC party at the lighthouse parking lot. We will cover the Point Campground, the Salt Pond and the beach, sorting through the gull flocks in search of Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous and California Gulls. Lesser Black-backed Gulls should be common. Peregrine Falcon is often seen here as well. We will scan the ocean for loons, grebes, scoters and other water birds, hoping for alcids or other rarities. Common Eider, Black-headed and Little Gulls and Eared Grebe are also possibilities. In the past we have had great looks at Iceland Gull, Dovekie and Razorbill. The salt pond usually hosts good populations of birds. Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, Hudsonian Godwits and a Sprague's Pipit may be present. Your leader will plan some side trips on the way back depending on what has been seen that morning at points north. Please note: We will be walking to Hatteras Point, about two miles round trip.

Hudsonian Godwit

Approximate Travel Time: 1:10

Facilities: Restrooms

Access: Packed and soft sand

Trips - 19 & 40 - Pocosin Lakes NWR. Pocosin Lakes is famous for huge flocks of wintering Snow Geese. We will search through them for Cackling, Ross's, and Greater White-fronted Geese. Red-winged Blackbird flocks can number in the thousands, a spectacle in itself. We will look through them with hopes of spotting a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Overhead, we'll keep an eye out for Golden Eagles—this is one of the most reliable spots in the state for these awesome birds. Other possibilities include other waterfowl and farm field and edge species, such as sparrows, pipits and Horned Larks. There is a lot of territory to cover on this trip with potential side trips on the way back.

Approximate Travel Time: 1:45

Facilities: Restrooms

Access: Trail with potentially uneven surface

Trip Tips

You may obtain more information on the trip thru the CBC web site and The North Carolina Birding Trail Coastal Plain Trail Guide and on other internet websites of the above parks and locations.

- Field trips are limited to 16. The Photography and Shorebird ID indoor workshops are open to unlimited participants for the indoor portions only; you may sign up at the time of your arrival. However the field trip and hands on portion of the Photography is limited to the first 10 people who sign up at registration.
- All trips will leave from the hotel. If the trip leader is to meet you at the site, one person will be assigned as the guide to get you to the site. Site directions will be available at registration. If you plan to meet your trip at the site please make a notation on the field trip sign up sheet along with your contact number. Keeping in mind stops may change with opportunities.
- Be sure to pack a lunch and snacks for the all-day trips and due to the tight schedules, you might want to pack a lunch for the half-day trips also. Each trip is noted as to availability of public restrooms.
- Field trip directions will be included with your registration packet. **PLEASE** bring those with you on each trip.
- We attempt to carpool as several sites have limited parking. So please consider contributing towards gas if you are a passenger, out of courtesy for the driver and use of their vehicle.

Notice of Proposed Dues Increase—By the CBC Executive Committee

After discussion at its Annual Planning Retreat, the CBC Executive Committee recommended an annual dues increase of $5 to Individual and Family Memberships. The increase will help maintain the current high level of programs and service the Club offers its members. The Club has not seen an increase in dues since 2013 when the life membership was increased to its current $500 level from $400. Individual and Family annual memberships were last increased December 2011.

The Club relies primarily on volunteers and the Executive Committee to be careful stewards of the Club's resources. Nevertheless, the Club's annual operating expenses exceed revenues from membership fees and seasonal meetings. While the Club relies on revenues from bonus field trips to fully cover the operating budget shortfall, we aim to price field trips to be affordable for members and the number of field trips offered varies from year to year. The proposed fee increase will help defray some of the operating shortfall and, together with bonus field trip revenues, protect the Club's future viability, including staging quality seasonal meetings and maintaining the Chat and Newsletter, the Club's publications. The proposed increase would take effect after the spring seasonal meeting (Winston-Salem, NC April 27 - 29, 2017) at which the Executive Committee will present the following recommended dues schedule to the membership as is required by Club by-laws:

Article II Section 4 of the by-laws of the Carolina Bird Club states:

"The dues schedule (the frequency and amounts to be collected) shall be established by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership. A notice through the Newsletter of proposed changes in dues schedules shall be provided the membership prior to the meeting for which action is contemplated."

Recommended Dues Schedule to be approved at the Spring 2017 meeting:

Individual or Nonprofit: $30

Family: $35

Student: $15

Patron: $50

Business: $30

Associate Life Membership: $100

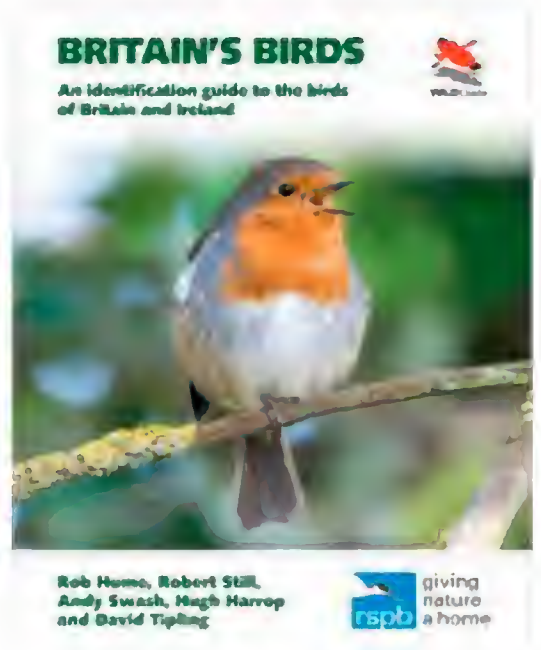
Life Membership: $500

Further, the Executive Committee enacted a $5 increase in seasonal meeting registration fees, beginning with registration for the Winter 2017 Nags Head meeting. An increase in seasonal meeting registration fees last occurred December 2013. The Executive Committee also established a reduced seasonal meeting registration fee of $15 for members of the Young Birders Club.

Upcoming Book Review –**Steve Shultz's** full review will be in the CBC February 2017 Newsletter.

However, with the holiday season fast approaching, Britain's Birds might be just the gift your favorite birder will hope to find tagged with their name!

Britain's Birds: An identification guide to the birds of Britain and Ireland
Rob Hume, Robert Still, Andy Swash, Hugh Harrop, and David Tipling
ISBN 978-0-691-15889-1, 560 pages, Flexibound
2016, Princeton University Press, $35.00



"Ron Hume, Robert Still, Andy Swash, Hugh Harrop, and David Tipling collaborated to create a beautifully presented guide that deserves a spot on any birder's bookshelf. Every species recorded in Britain and Ireland is included; and in addition to serving as an excellent field guide to expected species, the tome provides fascinating commentary on the distribution of North American birds as vagrants to Western Europe." **Steve Shultz**

My Backyard Gray-cheeked Thrush Program—

By Brian K. Pendergraft

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

It was December 30, 1988 when I decided to look in more depth at a budding interest in birds. I purchased a birding diary to document the famous "Life List". This led me into a world of birding that I have loved ever since. The life list was the opportunity to learn about species and travel to wonderful places in North America. Now approaching 630 ABA species, my passion for birds has reached new heights. While I don't fanatically chase life birds, I do take the time to pick up one when I can, as I did in central Texas this spring for the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo.

A few years ago, good friends of mine (Dan Hudson, Steve Shultz, and Lewis Burke) started looking at the year list idea, whereby a birder documents as many species as they can in one year. I absolutely love this concept because it gives me another shot at seeing numerous species each and every year. Multiple looks at a species only enhances one's birding knowledge! Depending on whether I travel outside of North Carolina or not, I typically see anywhere from 250-400 species in a year. This concept gets me "out there" enjoying even the most common species, and I have become a better birder because of the year list idea.

But when it comes right down to it, "backyard" birding is truly my passion. I started keeping monthly records of backyard birds in 1996 in Cary, NC, where I had a third acre in a residential neighborhood. Three years later, I moved to northern Wake County near Falls Lake on a three-acre plot and have selectively cultivated it creating, a National Wildlife Habitat; the first and foremost goal to attract many more species. I removed pines to provide more bird-friendly hardwoods a chance to thrive and become more visible to passing birds during spring and fall migration. I planted numerous bushes and shrubs to enhance nesting habitat and added flowering plants to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Feeding stations provided varieties of food and all-important watering stations. A growing numbers of common species visit the yard, and more transient species stop during spring and fall. I have recorded 126 species in the yard, including flyovers but most have been seen in the habitat that I have created.

In October 2005, I ticked my first "yard" Gray-cheeked Thrush, and after seeing the birds every subsequent year, I began to think about the idea of a Gray-cheeked Thrush "Program". My intention was to offer an easy birdwatching experience for birders who wanted to learn more about the most elusive "brown" thrush in North Carolina. This, the most northernmost nester of the eastern thrushes, is more often seen during fall migration here in the central Piedmont, but in low numbers, and many birders don't see one at all most years. On my property, the Gray-cheeked Thrush has been both reliable and cooperative due to numerous mature eastern dogwoods and the red berries they produce in September and October. Along with the Wood Thrush, is the Swainson's Thrush, and the Hermit Thrush. It is possible to see four thrush species in one day in the middle of October. Instead of tramping all over the Blue Ridge Parkway and hoping to see or hear a Gray-cheeked, a birder could spend a couple of hours here and get up-close and personal with the regularly occurring NC thrush species.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Finally, after years of studying the comings and goings of all "my" thrushes, including identification, feeding habits, and most importantly, arrival dates and length of stay, in 2013, I invited birders to visit. Thirty birders responded to the open invitation and right away I realized that I may have something unique. This was a very enthusiastic group of birders anxious to learn more about the thrushes, and for many, the Gray-cheeked Thrush was a life bird. Each subsequent year the program grew, with many birders coming back each year and the birds almost never let us down. **/Continued P. 10**

The 2016 Gray-cheeked Thrush program began on the first of October. Ninety birders signed up for program's eight days and my expectations were high. The month of September was a rewarding prelude: The Swainson's Thrushes started to arrive during the first week. A pair of Veerys showed up on the fifth, but they only hung around for a couple of days. Wood Thrushes became frequent visitors for the berries during the middle of the month. Scarlet Tanagers, Red-eyed Vireos, and the first Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were tearing up the berries in late September. Warblers seen before the October First Program included Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black and White, Northern Parula, Hooded, Yellow-throated, and Worm-eating. The month of September yard count was approaching a record 67. After a very warm late summer, the temperatures finally began to drop. Rain was plentiful in the spring and early summer, but late summer brought weeks of blue skies and no precipitation. So, was the Gray-cheeked Thrush going to show up?

On September 20th, the first Gray-cheeked arrived feasting on berries before heading south. When the program started on Saturday, October 1st , I only had one Gray-cheeked. Fifty-seven birders flocked to the yard from the 1st through the 5th, many for the second, third, and fourth years. Almost everyone left with glorious looks at the Gray-cheeked Thrush, as well as Swainson's and Wood Thrushes. The late pulse of summerlike temperatures may have decreased the overall numbers of thrushes and warblers, but each day we were able to see some "good" birds.

It was an absolute joy and privilege to have everyone participate in the program this year. I think most folks left with a little more knowledge and an increased enthusiasm for the thrushes. Although the overall numbers of birds are down so far, as many birders know, it only takes one to make it a lifer. This program gives me the opportunity to work closely with good people and share my knowledge and enthusiasm with the thrushes. It's a great feeling to have a simple program like this one that attracts birders from all across the state of North Carolina. Warblers are my favorite bird species, but the thrushes are not far behind. My habitat allows me to regularly see a species that can be difficult to find and bring the birding community closer to it. I've already been asked again to be sure that I have another Gray-cheeked Thrush program in 2017!

Scholarship Opportunities for Young Birders in the Carolinas-By Mickey Shortt

Young birders in the Carolinas are invited to apply for two scholarship opportunities in 2017. One scholarship will be offered for young birders attending bird-related events such as birding camps and banding programs. Another scholarship will assist young birders in attending a Carolina Bird Club seasonal meeting. More details including how to apply for both of these scholarships will be posted on our website www.carolinabirdclub.org in the coming weeks.

The application window to apply for the birding camps scholarship will open January 1 and close on April 1. For inquiries please contact the Young Birder Committee by e-mail: **ybc@carolinabirdclub.org**.

An Invitation from Down Under

Greetings, CBC Members.
I am a biology professor at James Cook University in Australia. My main areas of scholarly expertise are ornithology and avian behavioural ecology.

A Traveller's Guide to Feathers

In addition to my other responsibilities, I have recently added a new section to my website under the title *A Traveller's Guide to Feathers*. Each week, I summarize the key points of a newly-published paper concerning birds from a scholarly journal. It seems to me that most bird enthusiasts rarely have access to the newest and most exciting finds from the world of ornithology. *ATraveller's Guide to Feathers* is meant to remedy that. All of the content with none of the jargon.
My writings are meant for bird enthusiasts who are curious about the latest advances in the field. The studies are global in scope, and consider birds of all types from penguins on Bouvet Island to snake-eagles in Israel. Visit glenchilton.com
Best wishes from Down Under,
Glen Chilton

Registration online begins on 12/3 at 2:00pm.
Please visit the CBC website, www.carolinabirdclub.org for the latest registration information.

CBC Outer Banks, NC Registration Form

Name(s)_____

Address_____**City**_____**State**_____**Zip**_____

Day Phone (_____) _____-_____ Evening Phone (_____) _____-_____

Email(s)_____

Meeting Registration (Member) _____x $30 = $_____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) ____x $35 = $_____

Buffet Dinner _____x $26 = $_____

Field Trip Sign-up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All-day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the Boxes to the right. Meeting registration at the door costs $40.

Total Enclosed = $_____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature_____Date_____Signature_____Date_____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send it to: CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Before sending in this form, check the website at www.carolinabirdclub.org to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled or cancelled.

Cancellations for the meeting will be refunded if received by Friday, January 13, 2017.

NOTE: Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until one day after online registration opens. Register online for the best availability of field trips. Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org. If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

If you registered for the buffet and elect the vegetarian option, check here: ____ # persons _____

Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

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and additional mailing offices.

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter 2017 - Nags Head, NC
Spring 2017– Winston-Salem, NC

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pittsjam@windstream.net

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CBC Newsletter Editor- Vivian Glover, Orangeburg, SC,
newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The ***CBC Newsletter*** is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. **Current dues are**: Individual & non-profit, $25; Family, $30; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, $30; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

Membership dues of $25 include $4 for a subscription to ***CBC Newsletter*** and $5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. **Cost for CBC bird checklists**, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00.

Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2016.

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